

July 30, 2019

Sonya Gilks  
UNB Director of Strategic Projects  
by email: [strategic.planning@unb.ca](mailto:strategic.planning@unb.ca)

**Re: Input into the UNB Strategic Planning Phase One Summary Report**

Dear Sonya Gilks,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to the draft strategic plan. Since 2004, I have been a UNB adjunct professor and principal investigator of numerous SSHRC-funded research projects. Currently I lead the UNB Rural Action and Voices for the Environment (RAVEN) project that promotes the voices of rural champions working to build sustainable communities in New Brunswick.

RAVEN's research is concerned with climate change impacts on rural communities in the province. We believe the climate crisis is the most urgent social, economic, political and environmental issue in New Brunswick and across the globe. The research is clear that humans must stop extracting fossil fuels and investing funds in the fossil fuel industry. University divestment campaigns are underway across the world. I would like to see UNB commit to this movement in its strategic plan.

I noted the summary report includes the concern with the climate crisis expressed at the consultation sessions. I also reviewed the UNB climate change action reports highlighting some of UNB's great activities related to climate change. However nowhere mentioned is the extent of UNB's investments in fossil fuels, information crucial to understanding UNB's commitment to climate change action.

The RAVEN project would like to work with the UNB administration on a campaign to end any new investment in fossil-fuel companies, and to divest from direct ownership and commingled funds that include fossil-fuel public equities and corporate bonds. We believe this campaign at UNB will support not only an ethical financial portfolio but also the wellbeing of its current and future students and rural communities across the province, who deserve to have a future not defined by climate chaos.

Sincerely,



Susan O'Donnell  
Principal Investigator, RAVEN  
<https://raven-research.org/>

