

RAVEN Team November 2019 Meeting Minutes

by zoom: November 19

Participants: Susan O'Donnell, Tracy Glynn, Matt Rogers, Rachel Bensler

Apologies: Sophie Lavoie, Daniel Tubb, Sabine LeBel, Rick Wightman, Casey Burkholder

1. Rachel's update: Attended the NB Environmental Network (NBEN) Eco-Confluence with Susan this past weekend in Fredericton. Has notes on it and can share them. Gave a booklet on fossil fuel divestment campaign to Jennifer Andrews with the UNB Board of Governors, hoping that they endorse it and that we can publish it in collaboration with them in January. Asked to participate in a STU documentary for a class and one for *The Brunswickan*. Asked to speak on the climate protest on Nov. 29th on behalf of RAVEN.

2. Matt's update: Making good progress on the documentary with Alex, Dave Perley. Have all the footage needed. The interviews went very well. Interesting to see how people working in different ways collide. Now in post-production process. Alex and Alison Taylor are working with Matt to finish the project and apply for other funding. NBIF encouraged Matt to apply again to the Social Innovation Fund for the same amount of money. Needs information from Susan for the proposal. At the Silver Wave Film Festival held recently in Fredericton, Matt met with Stuart Young at the CBC and talked about the project and options to broadcast the film. Looking at the Harold Greenberg Fund and other options.

3. Tracy's update: Working on a paper for the OURMedia Conference in Brussels next week. The paper looks at the NB Media Co-op's coverage of 3 issues in NB (forestry, Indigenous resistance to resource extraction and the use of Colombian blood coal) and the partnership with RAVEN to bridge the media-activist/scholactivist divide, which is a theme of that conference. Working with Susan on the launch of Dave Thomas' book, *Bombardier Abroad*. Alain Deneault will be a discussant.

4. Susan's update: Tyler Foley is no longer with JEDI to finish his PhD. Karen LeBlanc, JEDI's Executive Director, is also retiring in December. Will be meeting with the new person with JEDI in early December who will be our partner contact with RAVEN.

Working with Projet Aulnes on series of video broadcasts on rural coastal places affected by industry and what the future is for them, focusing on Belledune right now.

RAVEN was formally accepted as a member of the NB Environmental Network at their Annual General Meeting this past weekend. Rachel did a presentation on Fossil Fuel Free UNB at the NBEN Eco-Confluence. Susan did a workshop on sharing your environmental stories via media co-ops and learned a lot from participants there about barriers to writing rural stories.

Brian is working on RAVEN's report on rural broadband access. The draft is almost done and will be sent out for comments to people in government working on broadband. Kim is working on a similar report on rail infrastructure. Hope that both reports will be distributed in the new year.

Going to Knowlesville at the end of November. Amy Floyd is organizing a tour there. A number of people are invited – maybe part of her permaculture network. Susan can send out an invitation if folks are interested.

We are waiting to hear from SSHRC about Janice Harvey being a co-investigator in order to hire a STU student.

Working on a draft job description for collaborators for a project on food security for Fredericton that would involve the surrounding rural communities, for one of Tracy's photovoice participants to do media work around the photovoice project, and with the person who organized the poetry for climate crisis event and is still engaged with related activities.

Working on the NB Media Co-op website. Still working on tweaks. Realizing how much information is on the site. Thinking about how that information can be more widely used.

Daniel is aiming for 25 letters from the future NB. Still needs six more letters. Has a book proposal in to Fernwood. A good opportunity to get published.

New legislature opened today. There were at least 3 protests today outside the Legislature. The only one seen in the media is the farmer with the chickens. MLA David Coon will bring a new Crown Lands and Forest Act forward that will have a big impact on rural NB if passed. MLA Kevin Arseneau will be proposing a new framework for rural communities.

Next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 3 at 3:00pm.