

RAVEN Team Meeting
Minutes January 22, 2020

Participants: Susan O'Donnell, Tracy Glynn, Jessica Wall, Renelle LeBlanc, Danis Comeau, Stanley Barnaby, Amy Floyd, Janice Harvey

1. Introductions

Stanley Barnaby is the Senior Projects Manager with JEDI – a non-profit organization that provides economic development services to Aboriginal people in NB.

Renelle LeBlanc is a co-founder and producer for Les Projets Aulnes, a non-profit cooperative based in Pointe-Vert. Partnering with RAVEN on Espaces Maritimes – a new web-series that we are piloting in February.

Danis Comeau is a co-founder and producer for Les Projets Aulnes – mission to contribute to sustainable economic development in NB.

Amy Floyd is working on the rural community food security project in the Nashwaak Valley where she lives. Focusing on local food production and sales.

Janice Harvey teaches Environment and Society program at St. Thomas University. Working with Susan, Hannah and Rachel on the divestment campaign work. Involved with FERN – the Faculty Environmental Research Network. Invited Susan to tell FERN about RAVEN and possible collaborations.

Susan O'Donnell is an adjunct professor at Sociology and lead researcher on the RAVEN project.

Tracy Glynn is a PhD student, teaches in the Environmental and Society program at STU and International Development Studies program at UNB. She is doing doctoral research, including photovoice, with RAVEN.

Jessica Wall is a Masters student at UNB, looking at fresh food tax credit program for farmers to support local food in food banks in NB.

2. Updates

Danis: Their new Espaces Maritime / Maritime Spaces broadcast event will have its first episode with the community of Belledune – youth and experts gathering to discuss solutions. The event will start with a tour of the industrial facilities in Belledune, followed by gathering at the Barque Cooperative. Discussion will focus on 3 themes: sustainable economic development, preservation of the environment and social justice. In the evening and the next day, will be doing a live broadcast of

Maritime Spaces. Will be discussing what was happening during that day. A 90-minute live broadcast.

Renelle: Last summer, they participated with RAVEN, NBEN and UdeM in a tour of Belledune's industrial facilities – NB Power, port of Belledune, etc. The February event will aim to inform the public about the studies done on the environmental impact and related social issues, such as having a coal burning facility. Want to engage the youth and other members of the community to think of ways to develop in a region that is still fixed on local development based on heavy industry and see how we can improve and look forward in the future. Will introduce groups like RAVEN to the community.

Susan: Tracy, Amy and I are attending the Belledune session in Feb. Hope that episode 2 of the Maritimes Spaces could be on the Eel River Bar First Nation.

Stanley: Talked to the economic development officer and their communications intern at Eel River Bar and they're interested in this project and hopefully other projects. Is setting up a meeting with Renelle, Danis, Susan and Eel River Bar.

Amy and Jessica are working on the rural community food security project that started in January.

Jessica: Amy brought together about 15 to 20 people working on food security in the Fredericton area in January at the Greener Village. 4 provinces have a tax credit (from 25% to 50%) available for farmers who donate fresh produce to food banks. Jessica's research will make connections between producers and food banks. Looking at the policy window and are farmers are informed about it and whether the 50% tax credit is enough and does the food bank have capacity to receive more fresh food. Amy is doing more of the community piece. Susan is co-supervising with Mary McKenna Jessica's Masters project.

Amy: Did a tour of the food bank in Stanley. Had conversations with primary producers. Tomorrow will meet with farmers who are doing market gardens. Expecting to get lots of information from these conversations, starting with primary producers then with retailers to consumers. Waiting for an announcement of a new funding opportunity from Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, hoping to support a community-based application for funds to keep the project going.

Tracy: Published an article for the NB Media Co-op this week about the photovoice project done last summer in southern NB. Hoping to do more stories from that project as well as work with Deborah Carr on another photovoice project or media project around the Calendonias Highlands, connected to the efforts to save Shepody Mountain from clearcutting and Upham Mountain from a quarry. Organizing an event with Miles Howe on policing of Indigenous dissent and a retrospective of the anti-fracking movement in NB in 2013. The event will occur on Tues, Feb. 4 at 7pm at Conserver House, 180 Saint John St. Organizing with Renelle and Danis around

their Maritimes Spaces event on Feb. 29. Hoping to have Catalina Caro from Colombia who works on just transitions for the coal-affected communities join us by Skype.

Janice: Had already been working with Hannah at STU on divestment. Glad to be part of the initiative today with RAVEN at UNB and STU. Rachel reported that the President of UNB is forming a committee to look at divestment. She hopes to be invited to sit on the committee, according to the student union president. Identified Earth Day, April 22, for an event in the afternoon on divestment. Could be a web-based gathering for divestment campaigns across the country. Talked about how to engage alumni on the divestment campaign, perhaps through a letter-writing campaign that indicates support for divestment. Hannah is working on publishing articles in the Aquinian and the NB Media Co-op. Hoping to get on the agenda of the next STU Board of Governors meeting in in late February.

Susan: In response to a suggestion to raise awareness nationally about the UNB and STU campaigns, an article in The Conversation, an academic publication aimed at wider readership might take an article. NB Media Co-op will welcome articles. RAVEN has several academic manuscripts in development. The first article, is an analysis of the three Irving daily papers' editorials on rural, to be published in the Journal of Rural and Community Development very soon. When it comes out, we will do publicity around it. Another article by Kim Reeder, Susan and Adje Prado is in peer review, on climate change adaptation in a rural region and the kinds of support that people need to do this work. Two RAVEN reports are almost ready for internal review by experts on rail infrastructure and broadband infrastructure.

Working with Christine Wu to organize a second poetry for the climate crisis workshop event led by El Jones, for local spoken-word poets. Christine is checking on El's availability for an Earth Day performance in Fredericton. Working with Rodrigo on the video with El Jones.

Lauren Korn is working on social network analysis activity. Lauren and Susan are auditing David Hofmann's social network analysis course.

Matt Rogers is working on a RAVEN film and is currently exploring commercial contracts. The film involves a series of short segments, with 3 segments recorded. Sabine worked on one or two of the segments.

Susan encourages all to think about planning events around Earth Day (April 22) and Earth Week, and late September for possibly another Global Week of Climate Action.

Danis: Brandon Corcoran is interested in training opportunities through RAVEN and NB Media Co-op about the Belledune event coming up and partners and subjects that will be covered in the event.

Brandon: Originally from Miramichi. Proficient in writing and attended college in NS on Horticulture and Landscaping and now wants to work on holistic solutions.

Susan: Encouraged Brandon to check out the NB Media Co-op's page on how to write a story (<https://nbmediacoop.org/share-a-story/>) and can meet with him to further discuss it.

Amy: Louise Comeau's work on attitudes on climate change may be interesting for stories.

Susan: Will put Brandon on the RAVEN friends list.

The cellphilm contest information is out now. The topic is "Grow a Better Future." Deadline: End of August. Will launch winners at the end of September. Encouraged people to promote it.

Brandon: What kind of presence does RAVEN have in high schools?

Susan: There are ethical challenges to working in high schools. Open to it. Rick Wightman is part of RAVEN and is working with high school students in Charlotte County to teach students how to tell their stories through video and other means and sharing it online. This is not a research activity which would involve ethical clearances.

Brandon: Rural Reality Education (RRED) project at James M. Hill at Miramichi. Students are often made to feel like their efforts need to be focused elsewhere.

Susan: Working with the NBEN's Sustainability Education Alliance, along with Projet Aulnes and groups doing environmental education in schools. Brandon may want to discuss his ideas with that group since they are working with high schools.

Next meeting is Monday, Feb. 10 at 3pm, by zoom.