



RAVEN ANNUAL REPORT 2014



thanks to people like you.....

\$250,000

HAS BEEN RAISED TO FUND FIRST NATIONS LEGAL CHALLENGES TO STOP ENBRIDGE IN B.C.



www.pull-together.ca



RESPECTING ABORIGINAL VALUES
AND ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS

<http://raventrust.com>

Message from the President

Our original vision was to bring balance: to help create a level legal playing field into First People's centuries long legal struggle to have their treaties with Canada honoured and to achieve recognition of their inherent rights and title where there were no treaties. This is reflected in RAVEN's Vision Statement; **"a country that embraces the caretaker values of First Nations and their equitable access to the justice system within a thriving natural habitat."**



Such a vision comes out of the understanding that it is the people who are embedded in the land through their stories and songs and art— reflecting their deep and abiding cultural roots— who best understand the value of protecting the land. These are the people who, as allies, we must support if we are to learn how to live harmoniously in this land we call Canada today.

As founding president it has been my privilege to watch RAVEN, this small dauntless organization, grow into a very effective instrument for aboriginal justice in Canada. When we began over five years ago, it was to assist the Beaver Lake Cree Nation in the fight to have their historic treaty honoured as tar sands development was destroying their ability to carry on the way of life they had been promised. Following some success there RAVEN joined the increasingly successful Pull Together campaign to assist a number of First Nations in the struggle to protect their territories along the route of the Enbridge heavy oil pipeline, including an extremely dangerous and potentially destructive tanker route down Canada's west coast. What has been achieved to date in terms of fundraising for the legal challenges represented here has exceeded all expectations. RAVEN also played a significant fund raising role in the Tsilhqot'in Nation's fight for rights and title that resulted in the Supreme Court of Canada decision that recognized aboriginal title for the first time in the nation's history.

We do like to make history!

Such successes have created new challenges in the form of requests for support, and for new alliances, with many very worthwhile cases across Canada. To meet these challenges over the past year RAVEN has begun to transition into a larger, more sophisticated organization with its own office, increased staff, and the development of criteria by which to assess the cases that come before us. The board will have to become more involved in support of our dedicated, but very small, staff. Fortunately, several new board members have joined RAVEN who share my enthusiasm for the very daunting challenges we face. Under their leadership and guidance I have confidence that RAVEN will thrive in the years ahead.

I am writing this message as the past president of RAVEN. Due to a very heavy overall work load I decided to retire from this position at the end of 2014, but continue a role of past-president for one year to assist with a smooth transition.

I send a huge thank you to all who have supported RAVEN through the past year. Your financial support has enabled us to play a big role in making Canada a better country. With your help RAVEN will continue to do so.

Thanks for reading,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Williams

RAVEN'S MISSION

RAVEN'S mission is to raise legal defence funds for First Nations who enforce their rights and title in Canada's courts to protect their traditional territories. Through our education programs, RAVEN transforms public awareness to eliminate environmental racism and create a collaborative new economy.



RAVEN PROGRAMS



PULL TOGETHER

RAVEN joined forces with Sierra Club BC to create a new campaign to help the seven nations that filed legal actions to stop the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline and tankers project. The campaign employs a new model for us, using grassroots fundraising and online 'friend-raising' to raise the funds needed to cover the initial legal costs of preparing for court. It started with a dinner in Terrace, BC where people who felt that the nations should not have to bear the burden of the court costs alone, given that everyone stands to benefit from the outcome of the litigation; so, they raised \$2000 and challenged others to do the same. By the end of 2014, with the help of a generous matching donor, the pull-together.ca campaign raised more than \$325,000. And more than the money, it generated a community of people willing to stand with the First Nations in this campaign: the Gitxaala, Gitga'at, Haida, Heiltsuk, Kitasoo/Xai'xais, Nak'azdli and Nadleh Whuten First Nation.

"We carry out these challenges with the spirit of our Nation behind us. Pull Together's success has shown me we also carry them out with the spirit of BC behind us." Jess Housty, Heiltsuk First Nation.

BEAVER LAKE CREE NATION (vs Alberta and Canada)



“If you breathe air or drink water, this is about you.”
Crystal Lameman, Beaver Lake Cree Nation.

By providing financial resources to First Nations facing environmentally destructive projects in their traditional territories, RAVEN is defending the rights of all Canadians who want a just, healthy, and sustainable future. RAVEN continues to support Beaver Lake Cree Nation’s ongoing legal action to stop the expansion of the tar sands industries in their traditional territories. The legal team spent 2014 preparing a plan for the trial, and there will be more developments in 2015. RAVEN joined with a new European crowd-funding organization called Grrrowd to expand the base of support beyond North America.

TSILHQOT’IN NATION

The Tsilhqot’in Nation’s legal challenge to the second run at Teztan Biny (Fish Lake) by Taseko Mines Limited (TML) continues to be a priority. Following a second federal rejection of the “New Prosperity Mine,” the Tsilhqot’in National Government and Xeni Gwet’in First Nation found themselves in court again after the company launched two judicial reviews. The court heard applications from TML to turn the reviews into a full trial or roll the two reviews into one, but at year end no decision had been rendered. Donors remain committed to seeing this through to a successful conclusion.

LAKE BABINE FIRST NATION

Lake Babine First Nation received crucial support for scientific review work done by Dr. Reena Fried in support of the nation’s legal challenge of the Morrison Mine. RAVEN raised funds to cover Lake Babine’s costs in responding to Pacific Booker Minerals’ reconsideration submissions for the proposed Morrison Mine. The Morrison Mine is a proposed open pit copper/gold mine that would be located on the edge of Morrison Lake, in central BC. The Mine would be located in a gorgeous, remote, wildlife-rich area, in the heart of Lake Babine’s traditional territory, and on the edge of a lake that offers some of the most valuable rearing habitat for the Skeena River sockeye fishery.

EDUCATION

ARTIST AND COMMUNITY STRATEGIST IN RESIDENCE

This program was established with artist Prav Pillay as one pillar in fulfilling RAVEN's mandate to assist aboriginal peoples in protecting and restoring the natural environment for the benefit of all people within Canada by developing and delivering education programs to advance knowledge and understanding of available legal rights and remedies. This is important, because an informed community that acknowledges the relationship between cultural integrity and a healthy ecology is able to act clearly and decisively to ensure its long-term viability. Prav, with RAVEN, developed several eco-art and media based education programs.

The purpose of this residency is to develop art-based community projects for First Nations and non First Nations that explore the complex relationship between industry, ecology and culture, and how we move forward together to live well upon the land.

All strategies and programs under the residency are conceived, developed and delivered in a manner that cultivates:

- Cultural respect between First Nations communities and all newcomers to traditional First Nation territory across Canada,
- Collaborations that explore and examine the strengths, challenges and opportunities required of an emerging inclusive society that respects traditional First Nation's values and title, and
- Programs centred on the theme that resilient ecologies, critical thinking individuals and healthy communities are interdependent dimensions of this emerging society.

There are currently three main program focuses:

1. **An Arts-based Community Collaboration and Mentorship Project** entitled *Transformation in Earth and Stone*: Developed and facilitated at each site with local First Nations artists, traditional knowledge keepers and ceremonialists that brings Elders and youth to engage in creative community-oriented process that cultivates healthy and strong relationships by integrating understanding of self, culture and ecology.
2. **K – 12 Program Development** – In collaboration, nature based educators and educational organizers, local First Nations artists and traditional knowledge keepers, prototyping and catalyzing place-based education curriculum development that engages First Nation and newcomer children and youth in understanding local eco-cultural issues.
3. **National Touring Exhibition** – In the early stages of development, an exhibition focus on an intercultural inquiry into historical and speculative future cultural approaches to land and resources. This exhibition is expected to be developed by acknowledged and experienced First Nation and newcomer curators, visual and media artists, poets, writers and cultural theorists.

YOUNG SCHOLARS ESSAY PRIZE 2014



RAVEN awarded the third annual prizes for outstanding contributions toward broadening dialogues both within and beyond the academy on issues of indigeneity, social justice and environmental rights.

First place was awarded to Erica Isomura (right) for her essay: *Swimming Upstream Against (Neo)colonialism: The rise of industrial salmon aquaculture and decline of Sockeye salmon in the Stó:lo*. Loryn Blower (left) received the second place prize for *First Nations, Environmental Assessments and Best Practice*.

The purpose of the RAVEN Young Scholars Essay Prize is to recognize outstanding undergraduate work which intersects with the core precepts and values of RAVEN.

Quite simply, we want to recognize students who are

asking questions about the sorts of topics that we know to be important: factors shaping Indigenous youth movements today, the social geography of Indigenous protest, the struggle to save the Sacred Headwaters, attempts to incorporate Traditional Ecological Knowledge into Environmental Assessment Process, the role of colonialism and cartography in BC's Native resettlement, the list goes on...

Our thanks to the tremendous adjudicating panel, consisting of Dara Culhane, Professor, Sociology, Simon Fraser University; Glen S. Coulthard, Professor, Political Science, First Nations Studies Program, UBC; Dawn Hoogeveen, Graduate Student, UBC; Max Ritts, Graduate Student, UBC; Ardith Walkem, lawyer, Walkem and Associates.

Please visit our website to view this years' winning essays:

- First Place: Erica Isomura, '*Swimming Upstream Against (Neo)colonialism: The rise of industrial salmon aquaculture and decline of Sockeye salmon in the Stó:lo*' : <http://raventrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Erica-Isomura-1st-place-2014.pdf>
- Second Place: Loryn Blower, '*First Nations, Environmental Assessments and Best Practice*' : <http://raventrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Loryn-Blower-2nd-place-2014.pdf>

Program Impacts



RAVEN believes that our legal system should first and foremost dispense justice based on the best evidence available regardless of wealth and power imbalances. The RAVEN board has observed that the struggles worldwide for the rights of indigenous peoples are frequently closely related to the effort to prevent environmental degradation from inappropriate industrial development. By obtaining financial support for these inter-mixed native rights and environmental causes we intend to bring balance into the game.

RAVEN’s trajectory in 2014:



Thought Leadership on Indigenous Philanthropy

RAVEN has been working with other leaders in world of Indigenous philanthropy to expand the discussion around leveraging donor support for important issues, while highlighting and reinforcing best practices.

Study from The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada



In the last several years, part of the Circle's work has been to "see" and describe the landscape of Indigenous philanthropy in Canada, and to create an understanding of philanthropy as a part of reconciliation – first the building and then healing of right relationship. [Measuring The Circle: Emerging Trends in Philanthropy for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Communities in Canada](#), is the most recent of their publications arising from this work.

International Funders of Indigenous Peoples Conference, New York

In September 2014, RAVEN participated in the IFIP World Summit on Indigenous Philanthropy. The three-day event was timed to coincide with the UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the UN Climate Change Summit and the UN International Conference on Population and Development. The theme was *Weaving a New Path in Indigenous Philanthropy: Challenges and Opportunities in Changing Times*. In addition to being on the planning committee, RAVEN contributed to a presentation entitled *Securing the Homeland: Innovative Legal Strategies* and sponsored Crystal Lameman of Beaver Lake Cree Nation to attend. Board director Eli Enns co-moderated the session.

The conference brought people from around the globe together to discuss the challenges identified by leaders in the field and by Indigenous communities around creating opportunities for effective collaboration that will reap high impact results.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

**R.A.V.E.N.
Respecting Aboriginal Values and Environmental Needs**

Statement of Financial Position (Part 1)

(Prepared without Audit or Review: See Notice to Reader)

as at December 31, 2014

Assets

	2014	2013
Current		
Cash	\$ 327,533	\$ 113,926
Accounts Receivable	2,340	-
Due from Governmental Agencies	8,478	2,227
Inventory	1,447	1,735
Prepaid Expenses	<u>758</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 340,556</u>	<u>\$ 117,888</u>

*The accompanying Notes are an integral part of these
Financial Statements.*

Approved on Behalf of the Board:

 Director

 Director

R.A.V.E.N.
Respecting Aboriginal Values and Environmental Needs

Statement of Financial Position (Part 2)

(Prepared without Audit or Review: See Notice to Reader)

as at December 31, 2014

Liabilities

	2014	2013
Current		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 61,503	\$ -
Wages Payable	735	-
Restricted Donations	<u>24,488</u>	<u>42,988</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>86,726</u>	<u>42,988</u>

Fund Balances

Net Assets	<u>253,830</u>	<u>74,900</u>
	<u>\$ 340,556</u>	<u>\$ 117,888</u>

*The accompanying Notes are an integral part of these
 Financial Statements.*

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**R.A.V.E.N.
Respecting Aboriginal Values and Environmental Needs**

Statement of Operations

(Prepared without Audit or Review: See Notice to Reader)

for the year ended December 31, 2014

	2014	2013
Receipts		
Donations	\$ 412,579	\$ 241,185
Expended Restricted Donations	113,510	186,456
Grants	359,899	87,995
Interest Income	<u>656</u>	<u>581</u>
	886,644	516,217
Disbursements		
Project Expenses	562,748	517,266
Salaries and Wages	106,172	52,135
Administration	15,645	6,700
Occupancy Costs	13,762	5,805
Advertising and Promotion	7,887	2,454
Cash Awards and Grants	<u>1,500</u>	<u>2,000</u>
	<u>707,714</u>	<u>586,360</u>
Net Receipts (Disbursements) for the year	\$ <u>178,930</u>	\$ <u>(70,143)</u>

*The accompanying Notes are an integral part of these
Financial Statements.*

THE PEOPLE OF RAVEN

Name	Position	Email
Jessica Van der Veen	President	JessicaVdVeen@gmail.com
Ronald J. Lameman	Vice-President	rlameman@yahoo.ca
Stan Boychuk	Treasurer	stan@boychukconsulting.com
Kelsey Mech	Secretary	kelsey.mech@gmail.com
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Eli Enns	Director	eli_enns@msn.com
Kathryn Harwood	Director	k7harwood@gmail.com
JP Laplante,	Director	jplaplant@gmail.com
*David Williams	Past President	dawilliams2@shaw.ca

*David Williams is not an active director and has no voting privileges.

Name	Position	Email
Susan Smitten	Executive Director	susan@raventrust.com
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LEGAL:i

Ethan Krindle

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Victoria, BC

Many Pacific Northwest tribes view Raven as a

TRICKSTER.

Ravens are characters who will take
on jobs that no one else wants to

BY DOING SO
RAVEN
RESHAPES
& TRANSFORMS
THE WORLD.



www.raventrust.com