



RAVEN



2012

Annual Report



"Large streams from little fountains flow, Tall oaks from little acorns grow."

~ D. Everett, *The Columbian Orator*, 1797

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Great things from small beginnings... when you plant a seed, it's much like fishing. The act is imbued with hope. You wait patiently. You tend diligently to what you can, and just keep hoping that the seed sprouts and thrives.

Such is the past year with RAVEN. Not only did the seed sprout, but it has taken root, grown tall and is starting to bear fruit. In short, it's been a banner year.

There have been some significant developments with RAVEN's two main projects, plus the ongoing additional work for the caribou judicial review. We have had staffing changes, accounting changes and some political changes that may affect the way we work. However it is clear that RAVEN's position in the world of eNGOs remains critical. We continue to be the only charitable organization on the grid that specifically funds litigation for First Nations attempting to hold on to their land and traditional ways of life. And particularly with respect to the tar sands and climate change, the work we are supporting is being recognized by many people in the world of social change as pivotal and 'game changing'.

As we go forward, one of the biggest challenges emerging is one of capacity. We remain nimble and responsive, but the needs of our projects are immense in the scale of traditional fundraising. Where many NGOs would consider a year that saw us bring in more than \$400,000 in grants and individual donations a stellar year, for the work we fund it is a virtual drop in the bucket. Thanks to a Threshold capacity grant in 2011, we now have the wonderful assistance of Laurie MacKenzie for development. RAVEN is developing ways to grow so that we maintain our connection to our programs and stay open while being better prepared to take on other worthy projects and plan for the years to come.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to the incredible growth of our little seedling organization – donors, volunteers, board directors, accountants, and most importantly the leaders of the Beaver Lake Cree and Tsilhqot'in Nations for their continued determination.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Smitten". The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops.

MESSAGE FROM RAVEN'S BOARD PRESIDENT

It is most gratifying to have been part of RAVEN's growth over the past three years. When we began this venture the obstacles to us becoming the organization we knew we had to become seemed overwhelming. The need was immense, our resources paltry.

The task we confronted, assisting First Nations in their struggle to protect their lands, their rights, and not altogether coincidentally the environment we all rely upon for continued life on the planet, was challenging. And we began in an atmosphere of global economic meltdown when many traditional funders were themselves unable to be as generous as they might have been. Nevertheless, the numbers are now beginning to speak for themselves.

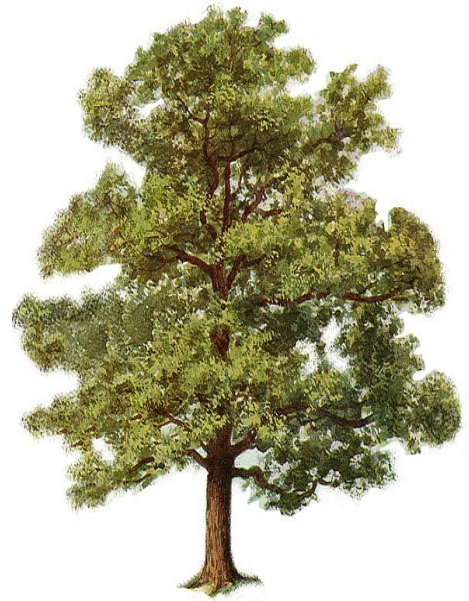
As NGOs go we are still small. However, our impact on the two projects we are currently providing support for promises to be pivotal. With an income to disburse approaching the half million dollar mark we have become a serious player in both the Beaver Lake Cree fight to sustain their traditional way of life, and in the Tsilhqot'in struggle to protect their rights and title against the depredations of a wealthy mining corporation.

The Beaver Lake Cree case helps to contain a relentless tar sands expansion that threatens global health in the form of greatly increased CO2 emissions that will, if unchecked, accelerate global climate change. The Tsilhqot'in case against Taseko Mines Ltd. will protect a pristine fresh water resource, rich grizzly bear habitat, and will prevent the eventual contamination of British Columbia's richest salmon producing river system.

I am grateful to both RAVEN's inspired and tireless staff and to a board that is highly supportive of our shared vision.

We are rightly proud of what we are doing. This is just the beginning.

David Williams
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Williams", is written over a light blue rectangular background.



GENERAL UPDATE

The 2012 year might be characterised as slow out of the gate but with a rollicking finish. Or it could just be that all the preparation of the past years finally connected to opportunity and we were able to capitalise on that to the benefit of our two main projects – supporting the Beaver Lake Cree Nation and the Tsilhqot'in Nation. However one regards it, we certainly ended the year on a very high note.

In the spring, RAVEN hired our new Development Director Laurie MacKenzie, thanks to funds received from a Threshold capacity building grant. Although it only allows us to have Laurie for 15 hours a week, she has used every minute to RAVEN's advantage. Within weeks of starting, Laurie organised a sell-out fundraiser for the Tsilhqot'in. Before long she had RAVEN accepted as part of the growing 1% For the Planet partnerships, linked us to the Gifts That Give, and broadened our grant horizons.

Right about the same time, the historic court ruling that allows the Beaver Lake Cree legal action to proceed to trial came down from Alberta's Court of Queen's Bench. This pushed that project to the fore and created some excitement that would round out our year.

In April, RAVEN proudly participated in the first annual Creatively United for the Planet festival, which was held over the Earth Day/Week. It was a good opportunity to connect to our local community to raise awareness of our work and build a stronger constituency of supporters here in Victoria. We also sold more than \$600 worth of t-shirts and other items, one of our other new ventures. RAVEN launched a small line of promotional goods including stainless steel drink containers, Eco-Pens and lapel pins to both assist with fundraising and help spread the word of our work. There is a separate page on our website now – the Shop – for people to purchase these goods online. Sales have been steady, and we will track this to see if it is worth continuing in 2013. RAVEN also updated its brochure and purchased a simple but effective standing banner to assist with our presence at different events.



Johnnie Manson receives his award from RAVEN ED Susan Smitten.

RAVEN awarded its first annual Young Scholars Essay Prize in July. At an award dinner in Vancouver, RAVEN's executive director Susan Smitten presented Mr. Johnnie Manson with a certificate and cheque for \$1,000 for his excellent paper entitled [*The Dialectics of First Nation Governance: A Case Study of the Relationship Between the Ahousaht First Nation and Industrial Fish Farming.*](#) Johnnie Manson is a 3rd year anthropology student at Simon Fraser University. The purpose of the RAVEN Young

Scholars Essay Prize is to recognize outstanding upper-year undergraduate work which intersects with the core precepts and values of RAVEN -- indigeneity, social justice, and environmental rights. Our thanks to scholarship coordinator Max Ritts and the team of adjudicators. For a first time award, we received eight high quality papers. We anticipate a strong second year with the introduction of a second prize worth \$500 and posters displayed at the universities.

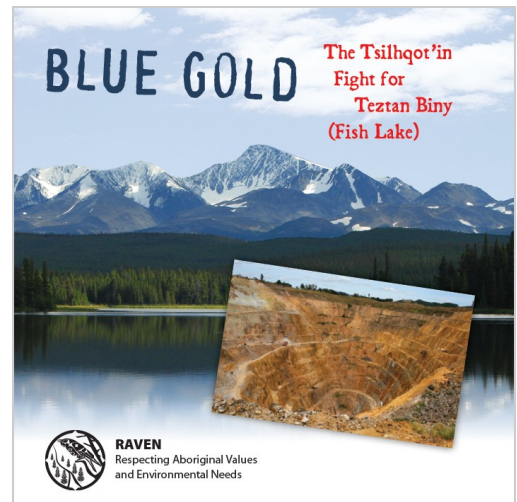
In tandem with RAVEN's ongoing support of the Tsilhqot'in Nation's effort to preserve and protect Fish Lake/Teztan Biny, we learned that our award-winning film *Blue Gold: The Tsilhqot'in Fight for Teztan Biny* was accepted to the McGraw-Hill Ryerson national digital database. This means the film is available to schools throughout Canada.

Our social networks continue to thrive. By the end of 2012 more than 2600 followers track RAVEN on FaceBook, and there are almost 1,200 followers on Twitter. We have added a profile to the GoBC tourism site, and may get that translated to German as this is a low-cost effort, and would reach thousands of international readers. We have been added to the Care2 site as guest bloggers, and recently had our first post there. And we were invited to participate in other websites, such as Climate Action.

In terms of fundraising, the bulk of our funds came through at the end of the year, when an emergency call for funding went out at the end of September to support the Beaver Lake Cree. In a matter of weeks, RAVEN raised more than \$250,000 to ensure the legal action did not collapse under the burden of court-ordered deadlines as the judge makes it clear this will move forward more quickly now. Watching the mobilisation unfold and seeing the results was humbling.

We had incredible support from several socially responsible foundations and some incredibly generous donors, including the New Venture Fund, Oak Foundation, Swift Foundation, Women's Donor Network, Common Stream, Nobel Women's Initiative and Jody Williams, Honor the Earth, Greenpeace Norway, Wilburforce Foundation, Fitzhenry Family Foundation, Shire Oak Energy, and many individual donors who collectively made this our most successful year ever.

Thank you to everyone who contributed toward the projects we support!



RAVEN Director Lynn Hunter and volunteer Jessy Rucker at CUFTP 2012.

PROGRAM UPDATES

TSILHQOT'IN EFFORT TO PROTECT TEZTAN BINY



Chief Baptiste (L) receives award for Environmental Activist of the Year 2012



Blaine Grinder at the World Water Forum

As of November 2011, this issue re-emerged with the federal announcement that Taseko Mines Ltd.'s resubmitted plan would be allowed to go to another full environmental review. RAVEN re-engaged immediately on this, and is part of the many teams working to support the Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) and the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation on this round. In partnership with others, we have raised the \$75,000 needed for a hydrogeology report. Our thanks to the Donner Canadian Foundation, Fitzhenry Family Foundation and dozens of individual donors for their ongoing financial support of this issue.

In April, RAVEN held a fundraiser in Victoria, British Columbia – *An Evening With Chief Marilyn Baptiste* – and with the enormous help of Anne Henderson it was a sold-out event that raised \$8,000. Those funds have helped to pay for an engineer's review of road systems upgrades regarding Taseko Mines Ltd.'s access to the proposed mine area.

We also sent Blaine Grinder, a Tletin'ox leader, over to the World Water Forum in Marseilles to educate an international audience on this issue and foster new relationships. And RAVEN has been working to raise other funds through new partners, as well as assisting TNG to apply for small grants, such as Small Change Fund.

In terms of messaging, RAVEN was able to work with the producers of Earth Focus on LinkTV to have our film *Blue Gold* re-worked into a new program that aired internationally. We have a half-page ad that will go into a cruising guide for boaters of the Pacific Northwest. We also have received confirmation that the film *Blue Gold* will be included in the McGraw-Hill Ryerson iLit Digital Collection, for distribution through Canada's schools.

This will remain an active program into 2014, as the company is still working to respond to the 50 major deficiencies found in its Environmental Impact Statement, and at time of writing this report, the clock has stopped on the federal hearing process. No date has been set yet for public hearings.

PROGRAM UPDATES

BEAVER LAKE CREE NATION VS THE TAR SANDS

(Alberta and Canada)

The 2012 year provided some challenges and some successes, with the final quarter being one of our best ever in terms of fundraising.

While the case slowly works its way through the courts, we have put considerable energy into remaining connected to past funders, keeping the case and issue before the media and general audience, and communicating any updates as widely as possible.

The year began with the January court hearing of the Motion to Strike. RAVEN assisted in the facilitation of *pro bono* work done in 2011 by the UK-based Tooks Chambers team under supervision of the Woodward and Company lawyers, by covering the costs of the lawyers' flights and living expenses. Many thanks go to the Cooperative Bank in Manchester for assisting with those costs. We also raised the funds needed to cover the costs of hiring Vancouver lawyer David Rosenberg Q.C. to present the argument at the Motion to Strike hearing. Mr. Rosenberg agreed to work at almost half his usual rate for this crucial legal argument.

Until the judgment was delivered, fundraising was in effect stalled as we waited to see whether there would be a trial. It was during this time that we planned for the best possible outcome, and worked to create new friendships and alliances for the large-scale fundraising that would be required.

Despite particularly vigorous efforts by Canada and Alberta to shut the BLCN legal action down, it will go to trial. Madam Justice Browne ruled on March 28, 2012 that the case can proceed – and for the first time Canada's courts are allowing litigation against large scale industrial development – including tar sands activity - based on the cumulative effects these activities may have on constitutionally protected treaty rights. The Beaver Lake Cree legal challenge will have huge implications for tar sands expansion, with almost 50% of expansion plans within Beaver Lake Cree traditional territories. BP, Shell, ExxonMobil and Statoil all have tar sands interests and expansion plans within these territories.

And with that judgment, we renewed efforts to begin large scale fundraising. But it was at an environmental retreat in September when we heard that the case was on the verge of collapsing because the band simply could not come up with the funds needed



Chief Henry Gladue,
Beaver Lake Cree Nation

for three court-ordered deadlines in October and December 2012. We were positioned to push an emergency button, and with the help of several foundations, and working alongside Beaver Lake Cree band member Crystal Lameman, RAVEN was able to raise the \$250,000 needed to keep the case alive. Plus we raised funds that will go toward the longer term trial costs.

We extend gratitude and thanks to the Oak Foundation, New Venture Fund, Women's Donor Network, Common Stream, Jody Williams and the Nobel Women's Initiative, Honor the Earth, Shire Oak Energy (UK), and Greenpeace Norway. We also wish to thank the many individual donors who gave funds toward this legal action at a critical time.

RAVEN is currently working with the Chief and Council and the legal teams to generate a fundraising plan and communications plan that will cover the years ahead. Our long range goals are to see this litigation through to a Supreme Court decision that declare the expansion of the tar sands infringes on the BLCN treaty rights. That decision would render any activity illegal and unconstitutional. This legal action goes to the heart of the need to protect First Nations traditional lands, culture and rights while protecting against further environmental destruction and devastation of habitat. By using the courts as a way to bring about substantive change, RAVEN hopes to leave a lasting legacy that benefits all Canadians, and ultimately everyone on this planet.



DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The development program at RAVEN is in full swing as we witnessed with an exciting year of growth in 2012. The upcoming year is sure to bring new opportunities and challenges but most certainly a continued, growing momentum which supports philanthropy, First Nations and climate change.

One of the first projects of 2012 was taking advantage of our acceptance to the **1% for the Planet** program. This involved sending out a letter of introduction to businesses in the 1% database. The goal was to reach out to participating businesses that have already proven to be charitable and environmentally focused. This project was completed with the assistance of RAVEN volunteers. The letter was translated and distributed in over seven languages and sent to over 2000 businesses. The immediate return of this project was the discovery of a capacity building grant through Mountain Equipment Co-op which is currently out for decision. RAVEN staff also attended a 1%-sponsored event in Vancouver where there was an opportunity to network with local 1% members including MEC, Salt Spring Island Coffee and Nature's Path. The long term benefits of being a 1% beneficiary organization has great potential and will include continued relationship and awareness building with the member companies.

One of the first goals of the development program in 2012 was to leverage the **Google Ads** grant to its fullest ability. After a short tutorial from Google staff, we are happy to report we are now maximizing our daily allowance of Google search engine inquiries. When people search on Google using one of our keywords, our ad appears next to the search results. It allows us to advertise to an audience that is already interested in our work. The grant is worth \$328 per day of free advertising that directs people right to our website.

Grants will continue to be a major source of revenue for the upcoming year. The MEC grant is focused on capacity building, strategic planning and a long term fundraising campaign. RAVEN is on the cusp of major growth. It is a disservice to not plan for the future of the organization as well as current and future projects. If this grant is successful, we will engage with consultants in the creation of a strategic and fundraising plan. MEC announces successful grants in January 2013.

Successful grants from a variety of funders for the Beaver Lake Cree legal action were opened to RAVEN last year through the call for emergency funding. Going forward in 2013 RAVEN will continue stewardship of these funders and begin to access their regular granting cycles. We will also continue to seek out new grants and provide support for the Tsilhqot'in in strengthening the voices of the community in support of the upcoming federal environmental hearing.

Fun Fact

RAVEN increased
donations by 124%
in 2012!

Last year was the year to get intimate with the IRS and discover the complexities of filing taxes in the US. Currently, the tax preparation is sitting with a local US tax accountant who we had to outsource the work to as it was far too complex to be completed in house. The estimated time for the return is approximately 30 hours at a discounted rate of \$100 an hour. 501(c)(3) status can be revoked if a IRS charitable return is not filed. The benefit of having 501(c)(3) status far outweighs the cost of the accountant.



RAVEN has been selected as a designated charity for **Gifts that Give**, an online store that donates 20% of sales to a charity of choice. There is a 'Gifts that Give' widget on our website linking people directly to the GTG website. This link ensures proceeds are directed to RAVEN. This works best for our U.S. friends, but orders can be processed from other countries, including the UK, by placing a toll-free call directly to the company. GTG is working on adding an international dropdown to facilitate buying from outside the U.S.



In terms of social media, RAVEN's presence continues to grow on Face Book and Twitter. We have more than 2600 'likes' for our RAVEN page, and nearly 1200 Twitter follows. It has become clear that the old model of mass communication has been replaced by an era of 'mass communicators' and we are working to ensure we can amplify our voice and mission through these social media outlets.

The upcoming year will see the RAVEN development program continue to flourish. This is an exciting time in the worlds of climate change and First Nations rights as a shift in perception and awareness happens around the world. RAVEN is perched on the edge of exciting new possibilities as we enter into our first full year with a staff member solely dedicated to development.

Laurie MacKenzie

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Laurie MacKenzie'.



R.A.V.E.N. Financial Statements

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, 2012

Assets

	2012	2011
Current		
Cash	\$ 338,138	\$ 128,007
Due from Governmental Agencies	1,121	-
Inventory	<u>2,267</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 341,526</u>	<u>\$ 128,007</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, 2012

Liabilities

	2012	2011
Current		
Accounts Payable	\$ 872	\$ -
Restricted Donations	<u>195,611</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>196,483</u>	<u>-</u>

Net Assets

Net Assets	<u>145,043</u>	<u>128,007</u>
	<u>\$ 341,526</u>	<u>\$ 128,007</u>

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



**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, 2012

	2012	2011
Receipts		
Donations	\$ 432,816	\$ 141,639
Capacity Building 10% Income	35,794	-
Fundraising Revenue	7,509	17,444
Interest Income	<u>62</u>	<u>20</u>
	476,181	159,103
Direct Costs	<u>1,112</u>	<u>-</u>
	475,069	159,103
Disbursements	(Note 2) <u>457,907</u>	<u>43,007</u>
Receipts from Operations	17,162	116,096
Gain (Loss) on Foreign Currency	<u>(127)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Receipts for the year	\$ <u>17,035</u>	\$ <u>116,096</u>

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



RAVEN 2012 Board of Directors

David Williams
President

Ron Lameman
Vice-President

Lynn Hunter
Secretary

Glenn Parker
Treasurer
(resigned Aug 2012)

Carla Funk
Director

JP Laplante
Director

Marilyn Mahan
Director

Linda Stanton
Director

Clayton Thomas Muller
Director

STAFF

Susan Smitten
Executive Director

Laurie MacKenzie
Development Director

VOLUNTEER/OUTREACH

Max Ritts
Young Scholars Essay Prize

Jessy Rucker
Events/Fundraising