NB MEDIA CO-OP

independent media by and for New Brunswickers

Annual Report
2014-2015

Highlights



CANADALAND in IRVINGLAND

The NB Media Co-op co-presented an episode of the CANADALAND show with Jesse Brown at St. Thomas University in Fredericton on Feb. 19. Brown broke the Jian Ghomeshi story and other important stories that corporate and state media were not willing to cover. Despite a snowstorm, about 300 people attended the show on Irving, the media and forestry. The panel included Jacques Poitras, author of *Irving Vs. Irving* and CBC journalist, David Coon, Fredericton Green MLA, Charles Theriault, filmmaker, and Tracy Glynn from the NB Media Co-op. The panel, introduced by veteran journalist and author Jan Wong, examined the Irving-owned media in New Brunswick and how they cover resource giveaways, sweetheart tax deals, pollution, labour disputes and indigenous sovereignty--all things that the media critics charged affect the Irving group of companies. Many journalists were in attendance as well as former journalists with Irving newspapers. A day before the event, CANADALAND broke the Larry's Gulch story. The story exposed how the public record of attendees at the government-owned resort in Northern New Brunswick was altered, triggering investigations by the Irving newspaper's ombudsman, the province and the CBC. Two Irving-owned newspaper editors were fired.



"The resistance will be live"

El Jones, Halifax's poet laureate, performed her powerful political spoken word poetry at Fredericton's Gallery Connexion in November. El sold many copies of her book, *Live from the Afrikan Resistance!,* at the event. Canada World Youth participants in Fredericton from Ghana performed a traditional dance and provided snacks. Thanks to the AUNBT, UNB's faculty union, for sponsoring the event.

The NB Media Co-op hosted the Fredericton launch of Miles Howe's book, *Debriefing Elsipogtog*, in June. The audience was captivated by stunning images of shale gas resistance in Mi'kmaq territory in 2013 and Howe's inspiring stories of how a people came together to protect their land and water from fracking.

Breaking stories

The NB Media Co-op broke what became national stories this year including the disciplinary action taken against Fredericton High School students for their dress code protest and the expansion of abortion access in New Brunswick being limited to the Moncton Hospital.

Karaoke Night

NB Media Co-op's UNB Arts 3000 intern Nikita Hartt organized a very successful fundraiser and outreach night for the NB Media Coop at boom!Night Club in January. The night club was packed and winners walked away with prizes like a bicycle and baskets of local products. The event raised over $530.







Our Website

Our website, nbmediacoop.org, continues to publish news articles on topics concerning labour, poverty, social justice, the environment, indigenous communities, women, LGBTQ, students, politics, the economy and health in New Brunswick, Canada and the world. Our popular stories receive about 2000 hits. Most traffic to our site comes from Facebook. We also increased our social media presence to 1,430 Facebook fans (up from 1,163 last year) and 1,285 Twitter followers (up from 1,123 last year).

The Brief

Our broadsheet publication, *The Brief*, continues to be popular. We distributed 2,500 copies ten times this past year to coffee shops, unions, offices, campuses, and various locations around New Brunswick. Over 100 locations and individuals are now receiving *The Brief* by mail, making postage the highest expense for the NB Media Co-op. Many of these individuals are distributing 10-50 copies of *The Brief* in their communities. Our distribution increased in particular in Kent County thanks to Dallas McQuarrie and in the Boisetown/Doaktown area thanks to Mary Delavalette. Many movements use *The Brief* to educate the public on particular topics including environmental, reproductive justice and labour movements this year. For distributing a large number of copies of *The Brief* in their communities each month, the NB Media Co-op wishes to thank Gerry McAllister, Sarah Kardash, Leticia Adair, Gloria Paul, Lawrence Wuest, James LeBlanc, Gary Heathcote, Andrew Lockhart, Wendy Keats, Rachel Daigle, Catherine Doucet, Beth Nixon, Matthew Buckley, Shaunessy McKay, Debbie Hopper, Anita Cannon, Grace Morris, Nicole Richard, Roger Richard, Onile Gallant, Leo Goguen, Matthiew Vienneau and Dallas McQuarrie.

Our News and Opinion

A number of people write news stories and opinion pieces for us. Dallas McQuarrie has continue to cover the shale gas beat for us in Kent County, including stories not covered anywhere else such as the investigation of the RCMP actions on the anti-shale gas camp in Rexton in October 2013. Asaf Rashid has written a number of stories about issues facing workers in our province and has added audio to our website by posting his *From the Margins* radio shows that air on Mondays on the Fredericton campus/community radio station CHSR. Sophie Lavoie has covered the arts and culture beat in Fredericton for us. Our stories have also been re-posted on *Rabble*, *Moncton Free Press* and several blogs.

Our Board of Directors

At our fifth AGM in 2014, we elected Sarah Kardash, Adam Melanson, Asaf Rashid and Tracy Glynn to the Board of Directors. The board met four times in the past year to discuss the health of the NB Media Co-op.

Our Editorial Board

The Editorial Board elected at last year's AGM included Matthew Hayes, Tracy Glynn and Julie Michaud. A number of volunteers assist the Editorial Board with proofreading The Brief.

Our Organizers
Our organizers meet monthly in Fredericton to primarily discuss story ideas for the next edition of *The Brief* and to plan events.

Our Interns
NB Media Co-op had three interns this fall who received credit for their internship through their university. Shawn Martin and Matt Mosher from STU Social Work wrote several stories, including stories on the provincial election, social impact bonds and access to abortion in New Brunswick. Arts 3000, an internship program at UNB, approached us about having another intern in 2015. Nikita Hartt, a UNB English student, joined us during the fall and winter semesters. Nikita organized a successful karaoke fundraiser at boom! for the NB Media Co-op and wrote news stories about the dress code protest at Fredericton High School and on Bill C-51.

Our Sustainers/Donors
The Media Co-op continues to receive monthly and annual donations from individuals and organizations across the province. Judy Burwell, our membership coordinator, sends reminders to members to renew their memberships and encourages others to sign up. The NB Media Co-op continues to attract new members. The NB Media Co-op has 31 individual members, down from 40 members last year. The NB Media Co-op has not promoted membership this year beyond reminding our members to renew and asking for membership at events. Annual membership is $30/year and can be paid by PayPal on the website or by cheque/cash.

Labour unions and social justice organizations continue to support the NB Media Co-op. Their support makes it possible to keep publishing and distributing *The Brief*. Thanks to the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), the Fredericton/Oromocto local of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), the CUPW Atlantic office, the Faculty Association at STU (FAUST), Clinic 554, the Sisters of Charity in Saint John, the Council of Canadians and the Conservation Council of New Brunswick for the ongoing support.

In the coming year, we hope to:

• Encourage more people to contribute news stories and analysis to the NB Media Co-op.

• Expand our reach. Increase the distribution of *The Brief* and increase our fan base on social media.

• Encourage more people to sign up as members so that we can sustain and grow the co-op.

• Be a credible and critical source of news and analysis on the challenges facing New Brunswickers and people worldwide.

• Spark public discussion on the important events and issues affecting our lives through articles and events.

• Increase critical media literacy.

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