

# Looking Out For Each Other

A Project Update – January 2020



(Photo by Ellery Platts: Duncan McCue)

## Media Workshop with CBC's Duncan McCue

We recently held a workshop with CBC's Duncan McCue at the University of King's College (UKing's) in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from November 28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>. Participants at the workshop included Indigenous and non-Indigenous media professionals, journalism academics, and journalism students. The workshop started with a full day of cultural competency training, provided by Duncan McCue based on his Reporting on Indigenous Communities Guide and corresponding research.

The second day was devoted to media case study work, facilitated by media professionals and members of the LOFEO project team, using a draft set of reporting guidelines that was developed with input from Indigenous community members in Eastern Canada, Terra Tailleir (Professor,

UKing's), Erin Moore (Instructor, NSCC), and the LOFEO Leadership Team.

The LOFEO project team would like to thank Terra, Erin, Duncan, and Catherine Martin, for their contributions in helping to draft the guidelines and in helping to organize the workshop. This help was invaluable to the media work of the LOFEO project.

Some of the key takeaways from this workshop were:

- The media plays a huge role in reconciliation. (News media shapes people's perceptions!)
- Cultural competency training is needed! (We need more of these types of workshops)
- Cultural context is important for stories about Indigenous people.
- Reporters must respect people, stories, identities, perspectives, history, culture, and customs.
- It's important to use the right words! (Reporters need to know the acceptable and unacceptable terms and language to use when referring to Indigenous people and communities)
- Taking responsibility and building genuine relationships is important, as well as learning to take criticism and commit to doing better.



(Photo by Alison Delroy: November 29<sup>th</sup> LOFEO Workshop with Duncan McCue, University of Kings College)

Duncan says, “good things will happen, if you: respect people’s customs and traditions; show a genuine interest in learning; recognize there is no “one-size-fits-all” approach to Aboriginal peoples; and nurture relationships.”



(Photo by Ellery Platts: November 28<sup>th</sup> LOFEO Workshop with Duncan McCue, KTS Lecture Hall, University of Kings College)

We were privileged to have Duncan work with the project. His insights and experiences were expertly delivered. His use of story telling and engagement left everyone wanting more and asking us when we might do something like this again. It was a wonderful outcome after everyone’s hard work making this Workshop a success.

Duncan McCue’s website for Reporting on Indigenous Communities is:

<http://riic.internationalreporting.org/the-guide/the-last-word/last-bit-of-advice/>



(Photo from CBC Website: Duncan McCue)

## Duncan McCue

(Credit:<https://www.cbc.ca/mediacentre/bio/duncan-mccue>)

A member of the Chippewas of Georgia Island First Nation in Southern Ontario, Duncan McCue is an influential journalist and Indigenous voice. He is a respected expert in his field, with a specialization in reporting Indigenous stories.

Duncan is the host of CBC’s Radio One Cross Country Checkup. His work has brought him across the country and included featured pieces on CBC’s The National.

He has won numerous journalism awards, including several RTNDA and Jack Webster Awards. He was part of a CBC Aboriginal investigation into missing and murdered Indigenous women that won numerous honours, including the Hillman Award for Investigative Journalism. In 2017, he was presented with an Indspire Award for Public Service. He was also awarded a Knight Fellowship at Stanford University in 2011.

Duncan teaches journalism at both Ryerson University and the University of British Columbia. He holds a law degree from the University of British Columbia and an honorary doctorate from the University of Kings College, where he previously earned his undergraduate degree in English.

A proud father of two, Duncan's work is a wonderful contribution to the broader community and the stories that will be told generations to come. He is a story teller and a bridge for Indigenous Peoples to be heard.

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(Image: Sisters Standing Together)

## **Sisters Standing Together: Presented by Wolastoqiyik Sisters in Spirit and the Red Shawl Campaign**

During the month of October, LOFEO assisted in the planning of the Sisters Standing Together Artistic Expressions Event (held at St. Thomas University on October 23<sup>rd</sup>) and the Vigil/Walk (held at Fredericton's City Hall on October 4<sup>th</sup>).



(Photo at Vigil: Jula Hughes, Karen Pearlston, and Anthea Plummer)

LOFEO contributed a framed print of our project painting by Susan Sacobie for the Artistic Expressions door prize as well as packages for speakers at the various events held throughout the month of October.

The work of the project, including the MMI FIND Helpline, was presented to a broad audience of Indigenous community members and non-Indigenous attendees at the Artistic Expressions Event, where we found many were committed to sharing the material we brought for our information booth.



(Photo: Indigenous Student Centre, Dalhousie University, 1321 Edward Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia)

## Indigenous Student Talking Circle at Dalhousie University

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, we held a Talking Circle at Dalhousie University's Indigenous Student Centre, in collaboration with Indigenous Student Advisor, Michelle Graveline. The purpose of the Talking Circle was to understand the experiences of Indigenous students in the university setting and what they need in order to feel

safe and supported while attending university.

The Indigenous Student Centre (ISC), as described on their website, helps create a sense of belonging to support Indigenous student success while at Dalhousie. The Indigenous Student Advisor provides support and advocacy for all of Dalhousie's Indigenous students. There are personal, educational, and career resources at the centre, including:

- Tutoring,
- Cultural activities,
  
- Scholarship and bursary information,
- Educational information sessions,
- Networking opportunities, and
- Referrals for support on and off campus.

With help from Michelle Graveline and our Talking Circle participants, we will be returning to Dalhousie in late Winter to meet with upper administration and present the student's recommendations, in order to advocate for real and meaningful change.

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(Photo: Karen Pearlston)

## Karen Pearlston, Faculty of Law, University of New Brunswick

Karen is pleased to join the LOFEO project. A lifelong feminist, she comes to the project from the faculty of law at UNB where she is a Professor of Law. Her academic responsibilities over the years have included teaching in the areas of tort law, family law, legal history, feminist advocacy, and gender, sexuality and law. Prior to coming to UNB, she earned her LLB from Osgoode Hall Law School, her LLM from UBC, and her PhD from York University.

She has written on the history of women, the family, family law, and on lesbian legal history. Representative works include “Male Violence, Marital Unity, and the History of the Interspousal Tort Immunity” (2015) 36 *Journal of Legal History* 260-298; “Equality & Incrementalism: The Role of Common Law Reasoning in Constitutional Rights Cases after Bedford (ONCA)” (2013) 44 *Ottawa Law Review* 467-506 (with Julia Hughes & Vanessa MacDonnell); and

“‘Something More’: The State’s Place in the Bedrooms of Lesbian Nation,” in *No Place for the State: The Origins and Legacies of the 1969 Omnibus Bill*, eds. Christabelle Sethna and Christopher Dummitt (UBC Press, forthcoming 2020). She is co-editor of the National Family Law Casebook, Mary Jane Mossman, Natasha Bakht, Vanessa Gruben, Karen Pearlston, eds, *Families and the Law: Cases and Commentary*, 2nd edn. (Captus Press, 2019).

Karen attended law school as a mature student after working in social justice movements and at a women’s shelter in Toronto. She continued her community activism after moving to Fredericton in 2002 where she works with Reproductive Justice New Brunswick and the Emergency Campaign to Save Clinic 554. She is a founding member of the board of The 203: Centre for Gender and Sexual Minorities at UNB and a member of the UNB Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

A good illustration of how Karen’s activism and community service inform her scholarship and teaching is her work with the Anti-69 network of scholar-activists. This project, Anti-69: Against the Mythologies of the 1969 Criminal Code Reforms, aimed to counter government claims that homosexuality was decriminalized in Canada in 1969 and to point out that, despite the legal gain of same-sex marriage and the Prime Minister’s 2017 apology for historic harms, homophobic discrimination is still very much alive. The network organized a national conference in Ottawa in March 2019, as well as local events, including events in Fredericton and Halifax.

Karen hopes to bring the same spirit of engaged scholarship to the LOFEO project where, in addition to supporting LOFEO’s

ongoing work, she plans to assist with developing research on Indigenous child welfare law in the Atlantic provinces.



(Photo: Terra Tailleir)

## **Terra Tailleir, Associate Professor, Journalism, University of Kings College**

Terra is an Assistant Professor at the University of King's College School of Journalism in Halifax, where she oversees the digital newsroom. She's on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Association of Journalists and regularly advises journalists and communicators at large.

Her goal is to demystify the journalistic process, so when LOFEO asked for her help to develop guidelines for both journalists and families, she leapt at the chance to contribute. She spent nearly 20 years in newsrooms around the country, starting with community newspapers in Alberta. She worked around the North, from Iqaluit to Whitehorse, in her five years with CBC Radio. She spent 10 years in Nova Scotia on the CBC online desk. She completed a master's degree in entrepreneurial journalism before leaving the newsroom to teach full time.



(Photo: Erin Moore)

## **Erin Moore, Journalism Instructor, Nova Scotia Community College**

Hi there. My name is Erin Moore and I teach journalism at the Nova Scotia Community College.

Since 2017, my program has been working towards meeting the 86th TRC Call to Action which calls upon Canadian journalism programs to educate all students on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations.

I first met Michelle Perley, Elizabeth Blaney, Anthea Plummer and Jula Hughes when they were in Halifax in the spring of 2019 for a conference. I was very interested to hear about the research Looking Out For Each Other (LOFEO) was doing in the area of media coverage of Indigenous people, particularly around Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Terra Tailleir from the University of King's College was

working on similar initiatives within her journalism program so it just made sense for us all to work together.

At the request of LOFEO, Terra and I began working on reporting guidelines for journalists to help them cover stories about Indigenous people in a more accurate and responsible way that highlights resourcefulness, resilience and strength in communities rather than deficiency or weakness.

This was a challenging and exciting task and we drew heavily from research provided to us by LOFEO as well as the recommendations from National Inquiry's Final Report, the TRC Final Report and other international guidelines dealing with media coverage of trauma.

We had a chance to workshop the guidelines with journalists from across the Maritimes at the at King's in late November. They were well-received and made stronger by additional feedback from the group.

I have learned so much during the time I have been connected with this project, and so have my journalism students. I look forward to more collaborations in the future as we continue to focus on this important work.


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(Photo: Jula Hughes)

## **Fond Farewells** **Jula Hughes, Principal Investigator**

As many of you know, I started a new position on October 1<sup>st</sup> as the Dean of Law at Lakehead University. This takes me to Thunder Bay, Ontario, where a great deal of the work we have been doing as a Looking Out For Each Other project team resonates so much. It seems like a good moment to look back on four years of project work and reflect on where we started, where we have come and what remains to be done, and also what the project has meant to me personally. I'll start with the personal, having learned from all of you the importance of speaking from the heart. My overwhelming sense is one of gratitude. Gratitude for your patience as Indigenous partners on the project, teaching me about your lived experience, and checking the results of our research work against what you know to be the realities of Indigenous people in Canada. I'm sure that I stretched your patience thin at



times, but know that you have changed me profoundly, and that your teachings will stay with me.

I am grateful for the companionship of the Leadership Circle. Elizabeth has been a pillar of support for the project, and she did all that on top of her regular job. She has taught me so much about good allyship, and I hope she will write a book on travelling in the Maritimes, as she always seems to have the info on where to eat and find shelter in a snowstorm. If a reserve community has a business we should use, she knows about it. If a Council runs any hospitality outfit, she has us booked there.

It has been a thrill seeing Michelle grow into her role as Project Manager; we have been so lucky to have this extraordinarily smart, detail-oriented, dedicated professional on our team. Michelle comes with the added benefit of Madison, her daughter, who is my knitting buddy, and whom I will miss very much.

Over the past years, we have had two people coordinate research on the project. Janelle Marchand moved on from the team to pursue a degree in counselling, but before she did, her contributions to the project were very important for getting the research work started, and she also contributed valuable research of her own. She was replaced by Anthea Plummer, which meant that Janelle's dedication to fun office supplies was continued.

Anthea added bench strength to the "let's get this pile organized" tasks. She also added more "cute" and more "stubborn" to the project with her delightful daughter Adorra. Neither Michelle nor Anthea have yet figured out how to do stuff in a "good enough" way, but maybe once I am out of the way as the person whose middle name is

"good enough", someone will take on that role.

From the Council, the project is on President and Chief #3. Thank you to Wendy, Amanda and Barry for supporting the work. It is by no means obvious that projects such as this survive changes in leadership. It is to your credit and to the credit of the board that the Council has continued to support the project, and with it the work of supporting families and friends of missing people.

So, where did we start? Elizabeth, Wendy and I sat at Isaac's Way over lunch and dreamt up what would become "Looking Out For Each Other". Just three women, dreaming! A good reminder that if you can dream it, you can get working on it. And where did we go? We looked for funding, structures, ideas, partners, and supports and found each of these in time. We also found ourselves in an extremely dynamic environment. When we started, there was no National Inquiry. Now, the National Inquiry is over and the hard work of implementing its Calls for Justice is pending. The Helpline was only a twinkle in our eyes, and then the Gignoo board and staff stepped up and now it is running, and we are working on a public awareness campaign and expansion into other provinces.

Along the way, we became connected through the Advisory Circle, the Research Circle and the Stakeholder Circle with the best of people in Indigenous leadership, in research, in policing, in law and in media. Never has it been more true that at the end of the day, it's all about relationships. These relationships and the support, intellect and creativity they bring is what allows for the work to continue. And much is left to do. Indigenous people continue to be victimized and criminalized at disproportionate rates. But we are also making progress. Never



have these issues been in the public eye quite so much. Never before has there been as much pressure on policy makers to enact meaningful change.

Woliwon, welal'in and miigwech for everything!  
Jula

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## **Happy New Year!**

The LOFEO Project Team would like to wish everyone a very **Happy New Year!**



**If you have information about a missing person, but you're not sure who to tell, we can help!**

**Do not wait to act!**

**Report a missing person immediately!**

**There is no 24-hour waiting period!**

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