



F R A C T U R E D
L A N D

Running Time: 79 min
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SALES

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SYNOPSIS

“Anyone who can throw a hatchet and sue you is a force to be reckoned with.”

That’s how renowned climate activist Bill McKibben describes Caleb Behn, a young First Nations warrior and lawyer who may become one of his generation’s leaders – if he can discover how to overcome fractures within himself, his community, and the world around him.

Filmmakers Fiona Rayher and Damien Gillis have been following Caleb for four years, capturing hundreds of hours of footage of his development, through law school, sharing knowledge with other Indigenous peoples, speaking to larger and larger audiences, dealing with deep community divisions, and building a movement.

Caleb sports a Mohawk and tattoos, hunts moose, and wears a business suit. His father is a devout environmentalist and residential school survivor. His mother is a top executive for the oil and gas industry. His people are deeply divided. They are at the epicenter of some of the most destructive fracking operations on earth. How does Caleb balance their need for jobs with his sacred duty to defend their territory? He has arrived at a key moment in history, sees the contradictions, and wants to reconcile them.

Caleb was literally born fractured, with a cleft lip and palate. We see the X-rays. He spent years in surgery, face cut, lips sewn together, metal plates pinned to his skull. He cannot prove that petro-toxins caused his suffering; yet it drove him to care deeply about the risks to children’s health.

It was following these many operations that Caleb would return to the land to heal. There, he was taught to hunt, fish and trap in the traditional way by his grandfather, Chief John Dokkie Sr. Yet one of the most important lessons he learned was how to check the insides of animals for spots and other signs of contamination. On the edge of his grandfather’s trapline sits a fracking waste injection site; on the road connecting his families’ communities stands a large waste-gas flare stack, which has continued to burn every day of his life.



Caleb is now an expert with high-powered rifles and throwing knives. But to fight the extreme carbon economy, he must use stronger weapons. We follow Caleb through the bush with his rifle, then into a law library. He graduates from the premiere class of the University of Victoria’s Environmental Law Clinic. But Caleb grapples with his isolation from his people and land. He longs to be with his remaining, now-dying grandfather, George Behn. Grandpa tells us that Caleb’s coming-of-age makes him feel free to move into the spirit world.



SYNOPSIS

This is the great irony of Caleb's life: to save what he values most, he must leave it behind. In order to change the colonizer's world, he must become part of it: practice law, forge a movement, use the media – all of this in large, concrete-and-steel cities. We see Caleb in courtrooms, at speakers' podiums, at street demonstrations, in boardrooms. He fights to stop the taking of trillions of liters of water from rivers that are the Dene's life-blood, water that is being polluted and pumped underground to frack for shale gas.



A typical fracking site in Caleb's territory - northeast BC

Caleb's first attempt at representing his people was as an oil and gas officer. It was his job to sift through the boxes and rooms full of "referrals" from industry – telling him what they wanted to do on his people's land. He held the record for most delayed applications, yet not one application was denied on the basis of his arguments. This is when he decided to go to law school.

Caleb explains how high the stakes are, affecting more than just the Dene. We learn how myriad pipelines are planned to carry gas from his territory across other indigenous communities and the rivers and streams of northern BC – all in order to convert it into liquid and ship to new markets in Asia.

Massive tankers would carry this liquefied natural gas (LNG) – derived from an enormous planned increase of fracking on Caleb's land - along BC's rugged coast and off to China, Korea and Japan. These emissions from fracking and LNG plants threaten to triple BC's carbon footprint – rivaling the Alberta tar sands.

Realizing that law alone may not be enough, Caleb becomes political, speaking at demonstrations, where he becomes an unexpected star. Suddenly, he is not alone. We travel with him to New Zealand where he consults the Maori, and to the Sacred Headwaters of the Tahltan people, who recently forced Shell Oil to halt its plans for a massive fracking operation in their territory.

These nations are raising new leaders like Caleb, forging alliances with scientists and environmentalists, sharing strategies using traditional knowledge and contemporary law. For the human species to survive, we need to learn to see ourselves as part of nature. These ancient cultures have ways of seeing that can help, if we join forces with them.



Caleb with his grandparents after being called to the bar



FILMMAKERS' STATEMENT



When we first set out to explore the controversial shale gas industry (fracking) in northeast BC four years ago, we were introduced to a compelling young law student named Caleb Behn who shared with us his deep knowledge on the subject, while introducing us to his family and world.

We met Caleb before even he understood his own potential, and quickly recognized that he would make an ideal central character for our film. What we ended up with is not an “issue” or environmental film but an intensely personal human story. Documenting Caleb’s coming-of-age journey has enabled us to delve deep into important topics like fracking, resource politics and Canada’s dark colonial legacy, through the eyes of Caleb and his people.

We have supported Caleb when he was unsure; stood up for his messages and story; and we are blown away by the person he has become. In the process, we have been welcomed into his family.

Now, after four intense years of filming in northern Canada and around the globe, we’re thrilled and honoured to share Caleb and his family’s timely, important story with the world.

-Damien Gillis & Fiona Rayher



TEAM BIOS



Fiona Rayher (Co-Director/Co-producer/writer) is a documentary filmmaker and public engagement specialist. She is the Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Gen Why Media - a production group working to innovate public engagement using media, events and public art. She is also the co-director and co-producer of the feature documentary, *Fractured Land*. Fiona's past films include *Generation Why* (2010) and *Most Livable City* (2010), included in numerous festivals. She is also on the board of DOC BC and the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Film Festival.



Damien Gillis (Co-director/Co-producer/Director of Photography) is a Vancouver-based documentary filmmaker and environmental journalist. He is the co-director and co-producer of the documentary feature *Fractured Land* and the publisher of the online journal *The Common Sense Canadian*. His short documentaries *Oil in Eden*, *Farmed Salmon Exposed* and *Powerplay* have screened in numerous festivals around the world and been streamed hundreds of thousands of times online.



Mark Achbar (Executive Producer) was the driving force behind the two top-grossing, Canadian feature documentaries ever made, *Manufacturing Consent* (with Peter Wintonick) and *The Corporation* (with Jennifer Abbott and Joel Bakan). Mark's films popularize radical critiques and gross millions at the box-office. As Executive Producer, Mark has supported: *Pax Americana*, *Blue Gold: World Water Wars*, *Waterlife*, *Fierce Light*, *Bananas*, and *Surviving Progress*.



Charlotte Engel (Executive Producer) is a documentary filmmaker and former commissioning editor with over 20 years of experience in the Canadian film and television industry. Her film *Mugshot* premiered at Hot Docs last year and she has produced several episodes of CBC's *The Nature of Things*. Prior to that, she was a commissioning editor at CHUM, CTV and Bell Media for over 9 years. Engel oversaw programming for Bravo! Canada, BookTV, CityTV, StarTV and FashionTV from start to finish.



Daniel Conrad (Executive Producer, writer) is a Director/DOP. His two documentaries and eight dance films have screened at Locarno, Montréal World, London Int'l, Seattle Int'l (Best of Fest Shorts), Golden Prague (Dagmar & Vaclav Havel prize), Toronto Moving Pictures (Audience prize), Bilbao; and sold to PBS, CBC, ARTV, ZDF, TVE, and Bravo. He was co-cinematographer on *The Corporation*.



Manfred Becker (Story Editor) After co-editing *The Journey*, with Academy Award winning director Peter Watkins (Berlinade, TIFF), Manfred edited Sturla Gunnarsson's *Gerry & Louise* (TIFF, International Emmy, Genie Award), Nettie Wild's *A Place Called Chiapas* (Berlinade, TIFF, Genie Award), and Paul Jay's *Hitman Hart* (multiple Gemini Awards). He directed and wrote a dozen docs, earning the Donald Brittain (best Canadian doc) Gemini for *Fatherland*. He was story editor for Velcrow Ripper's *Scared Sacred*, *Fierce Light*, and *Occupy Love*.



PRODUCTION STATUS



Two Island Films and its partners are proud to be world premiering **Fractured Land** at **Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Film Festival** on **April 28 at 9 PM** at the **TIFF Bell Lightbox Theatre**.

Additional screenings will take place at Scotiabank Theatre 8 on April 30 at 2:30 PM and again at Scotiabank Theatre 8 on May 2 at 4 PM.

Fractured Land is produced in association with *documentary Channel* and Knowledge Network, in collaboration with CBC's Explora. - with the support of the Province of BC, Film Incentive BC, Shaw Media Hot Docs Development and Completion Funds, Rogers Documentary Fund, the Government of Canada, the BC Arts Council, Creative BC, the Canadian Media Fund, and Council of Canadians.

We are currently seeking distribution and broadcast beyond Canada. For sales inquiries, contact **Damien Gillis: fracturedland@gmail.com / 604-780-2544**

