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APRIL 2016 NEWSLETTER

On April 8th we met with our architects who presented the final draft of their Design Development Report to our members. With very few suggestions for minor amendments the draft was approved. We are anticipating the receipt of the final version of the report in the first week of May. We never tire of reminding our readers that this phase of the project was made possible by the generous grants of CN, Aboriginal Tourism B.C. and the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition. We hope you don't mind us doing so.

Regarding our proposal to construct an earthen monument in recognition of the many Northern Secwepemc victims of the residential schools, we continue to await the decision of the new federal Minister with respect to our funding application to the Department of Canadian Heritage. We had anticipated a decision by this time, but it is to be noted that the application was submitted prior to the 2015 federal general election, and it is not uncommon for a new minister to require time to familiarize herself with a program that was initiated by the former government. If we receive notification of the success of our application in the near future, our application to the Northern Development Initiative Trust will be enabled to go forward in May. As mentioned in last month's Newsletter, our application has been significantly strengthened by the willingness of the 100 Mile House & District Historical Society to provide space within its gift shop for the sale of the First Nations art and other products of the members of our five Bands. We reiterate our gratitude to the Board of the Historical Society for its generosity.

One exciting development that occurred in early April was the announcement by the BC Government of a new funding initiative called the BC Rural Dividend Program. We will be submitting an application before the May 31st deadline for the initial intake, for 80% of the amount required to commission McFarland Marceau Architects Ltd. to carry out the construction documentation phase of our project. We are asking our member Bands to contribute the other 20%. Completion of this next phase would put us in possession of a final budget for the construction phase along with everything needed to go to tender. All that would remain at that point would be to raise the funds for the actual construction of our proposed Centre.



NOTES TO THE READER

1. If you would prefer not to receive future monthly Newsletters, please notify us by email addressed to grahamleslie@shaw.ca.
2. If you are not on our direct emailing list, but would like to be added to it, please notify us by email addressed to grahamleslie@shaw.ca