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APRIL & MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER

1. THE NEXT PHASE OF OUR PROJECT

On May 5, 2017, our members met our architects. Marie Marceau and Craig Duffield of McFarland Marceau Architects Ltd. We reviewed and approved their work plan for the next phase of our project which is to produce construction documents that will be suitable for going out to tender the work of building our proposed Centre. Their report which is expected before the end of the current year, will contain a firm budget figure for the entire construction phase. Our members anticipate at least two more meetings with Marie and Craig before their final report is written.

This phase of the project is made possible by contributions from the Esk'etemc First Nation and from the Canim Lake, Canoe Creek and Williams Lake Indian Bands, as well as a substantial grant from the BC Rural Dividend Fund for which we have already expressed our gratitude to our local MLA, Donna Barnett.

2. AN UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSION FOR MEMBER BAND COUNCILORS

For the morning of Thursday, June 15, 2017, the Society has planned an Information Session for the purpose of updating primarily the Chiefs and Band Councillors of our five member Bands. The session will run from 10 a.m. until 12 noon that day on the premises of the Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society in Williams Lake, with light refreshments available from 9.30 a.m.

The Session will include an overview of the history of the project by the Society's Directors and a presentation by our architects McFarland Marceau Architects Ltd.

Individual invitations have already been mailed to all individual Band Councillors and to a handful of special guests. We hope for a strong representation from all five member Band Councils so that they in due course will be fully prepared to help direct the future of a project now in its 14th year, but moving ever closer to fruition.

4. INTRODUCING OUR MEMBERS



Kerry Chelsea is a member of the Esk'etemc First Nation which is one of 17 Bands that form the Secwepemc Nation. Kerry has been a Band Councillor at Esk'et since 2014, and has been involved with various Aboriginal Organizations, Youth Programs and First Nations initiatives throughout his career.

More specifically, Kerry has more than 15 years' experience working with Aboriginal Communities locally, provincially and nation wide. He has served as a member of the Provincial Aboriginal Youth Council and as its president for 8 years which gave him the opportunity to travel all over the country and explore different nations, communities and people.



He is currently a proud staff member of the Denisiqi Services Society where he works with Aboriginal children and families through his position as the Aboriginal Family Group Conferencing Coordinator. Kerry is also the owner/operator of the Fourwinds Driving School located in the beautiful City of Williams Lake. His future goals are to further his education in the field of human resources and politics.



Kerry was appointed by the Esk'etemc First Nation's Band Council earlier this year to serve as one of its two representatives to our Society, and has already brought a notably high degree of enthusiasm and good ideas to our deliberations.



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



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The photos we've reproduced with this introduction will demonstrate graphically that Kerry Chelsea's interests are by no means limited to his work.