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## February 2018 Newsletter

### 1. OUR CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

On February 16th, Marie Marceau and Craig Duffield from our architectural firm McFarland Marceau travelled to meet our members in Williams Lake, and delivered a complete set of all the construction documents that will be needed to go to tender for the construction of our proposed cultural centre and museum. In a few significant words, our project is shovel ready!

Marie and Craig ran through their final report and answered the many questions that were raised both by our members and by our guest participants - Christy Smith, Acting Executive Director of the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council and Marilyn Camille, Band Administrator of the Canoe Creek Band.

### 2. OUR NEXT STEPS – FINANCING THE CONSTRUCTION

Setting aside our hope of starting on the task of identifying and preparing the various artifacts, stories and other items that will eventually be exhibited in our Centre - the subject of the next section - we now need to turn our attention to the challenge of funding not only the construction but also the annual shortfall in the anticipated operating budget. The overall budget for constructing the building and the landscaping, for the exhibits and for all the specialized storage equipment, lighting and furniture, is estimated at \$4.5 million. In view of the projected length of time between now and when construction is likely to be started, we feel it prudent to be aiming to raise \$5 million for these phases.

The challenge of acquiring the total amount from sources external to our member Bands, is very considerable. We are confident that under its present funding programs the NDI Northern Trust would provide us with the initial \$250,000 which would be extremely helpful in leveraging grants from other institutions, both private and public. However, the task of identifying the several funding programs that could coincide with each other at the desired time, presents a formidable challenge. In the short term, we plan to follow up on an idea that has been in the works for some time, namely the hope that the four of our five participating member Bands that are engaged in treaty negotiations with Canada and B.C., might be willing to make a sufficient priority of our project so as to commit to covering from their eventual treaty cash settlement, the cost not only of construction but also the ongoing operational subsidy that our Business Plan indicates we will need. If those four member Bands were willing to make those commitments, we understand that we will need to work with our



fifth member Band - the Esk'etemc First Nation which is not currently engaged in the treaty process - to find the means for it to make its proportionate contributions.

The ideal outcome for the project will be if the participating member Bands are able to make the commitments we are requesting of them, and if - armed with those commitments - we can start a search for external funding so as to reduce the amount our member Bands would need to contribute.

It is worth noting that three of our member Bands have already committed their respective shares of the annual operating deficit for the first five years of operation of the new Centre, and hopefully the other two are now experiencing improved financial circumstances that will allow them to match those contributions in the future.

### **3. THE NORTHERN SHUSWAP TRIBAL COUNCIL (NStQ) LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

On March 8th, a small delegation from our membership along with our principal architect Marie Marceau are invited to make a presentation to the NStQ's Leadership Council, comprising the Chiefs and Band Councillors of all four of our Bands engaged collectively in the treaty negotiations. We are delighted that they have invited Chief Charlene Belleau and the other Band Councillors from the Esk'etemc First Nation to attend this session at which those in attendance will be given a brief update on the overall project and a more detailed report on the architectural work that has been completed. The Leadership Council will also be asked to consider prioritizing our project as part of its treaty negotiations, and as referenced in the preceding section.

### **4. FUNDING APPLICATIONS**

We reported in the December 2017 & January 2018 edition of our Newsletter that we are actively seeking external funding that would permit our exhibit design consultants (David Jensen & Associates) to make an early start on working with our five member Bands to identify the artifacts, photographs, historical documents and stories that we will be permitted to display in our Centre once it commences operating.

We are awaiting a decision from the BC Rural Dividend Fund's administrators regarding the \$100,000 grant application we submitted in late 2017. The decision is expected by the end of March 2018. In order to qualify to receive that amount, it will be necessary for our Society to contribute a minimum of \$25,000. We had earlier decided not to approach our member Bands for this matching amount, and instead have been trying to find an external source. Applications to two separate funding programs of the NDI Northern Trust have been denied on the basis of our ineligibility under their criteria, and an



application to the CRD's Cariboo Strong program is on hold pending a decision by the CRD Board on the criteria it will apply to the program. INAC doesn't have a current funding stream that matches our needs, and our last existing hope is that Aboriginal Tourism BC might be in a position to allocate the necessary amount from some Federal Government funding that was recently made available to it. We will continue our search for the \$30,000 we would ideally like in order to provide the \$130,000 budget for the initial phase of our exhibit design consultants' work.

#### **4. INTRODUCING OUR MEMBERS**

With the introduction of Patricia Chelsea in our previous edition, we completed the introduction of all eight of our Society's current voting members. In a future edition we plan to make note of the many former members of the Society who have made their many invaluable contributions to our project during the 15 years since the idea of the project was first raised.

#### **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](mailto: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](mailto:grahamleslie@shaw.ca).