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April & May 2018 Newsletter

1. FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Neither the Cariboo Regional District nor Indigenous Tourism BC has yet established funding criteria that would make us eligible for the \$30,000 needed in order to match the \$100,000 grants to us by the BC Rural Dividend Fund, but we happy to report that our four active member Bands – Canim Lake, Canoe Creek, Esk'etemc and Williams Lake – have collectively donated that amount with the result that our Exhibit Roadmap Project can now proceed. The delay in starting the project has been accepted by the BC Rural Dividend administrators which will get underway as described below.

2. THE NORTHERN SECWPEMC EXHIBIT ROADMAP PROJECT

We described this project in some detail in our March 2018 Newsletter and are now reporting on the timetable we hope to follow through its initial months. As soon as all five member-Bands have appointed their respective representatives to work with the consulting team, David Jensen and his team plan to spend a full week in our area, devoting one day to a meeting with representatives of each Band to plan each one's individual approach to uncovering the artifacts, photographs, stories and handicrafts that the Bands themselves and their individual members wish to share with our Society and have exhibited in the proposed Centre. David Jensen and his team hope that these individual Band meetings will be attended – for at least a part of the day – by as many members of the Band Council as possible, by the Band Administrator, by any other Band members as are interested, and of course by the Band's appointee as its ongoing representative and liaison with David Jensen.

3. A TURNING POINT IN THE OVERALL PROJECT

Until now, and for all of the more than 14 years that so many dedicated individual Band members have devoted their energy to the overall project as representatives of their five Bands, the work has been carried out by the Society, albeit with generous financial support from its member Bands. That work has included the acquisition of a suitable building site, topographic and environmental surveys, an archaeological impact assessment, a major feasibility study, a professional business plan, and three separate reports from our wonderful architects – McFarland Marceau – that culminated earlier this year in the production of construction documents making us ready to go to tender for the overall construction as soon as we can obtain the funding to proceed.

The time has now arrived for our member Bands to take the lead in informing our Exhibit Design team of exactly what they want to see displayed and exhibited in our Centre once it has been built. David Jensen has carried out masterful work for a variety of well-known and successful First Nations museums and is well known for being an intelligent listener whose effectiveness depends on the input of his clients. In this instance and at this time, the clients are our member Bands who have a



monopoly on what each one wishes to submit to be exhibited, thus the importance of each Band Council taking the lead and supporting its appointed representative and liaison person.

4. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Three of our five member-Bands have elected new Chiefs during the past few months, and we are very pleased and grateful to have been given an opportunity to brief them at the June 20th meeting of the NStQ Board of Directors. They have kindly honoured our request to have the newly elected Chief from Esk'etemc – former Chief Fred Robbins – invited to attend our presentation. Along with Chiefs Ann Louie of Williams Lake and Patrick Harry of Canoe Creek, we hope that recently elected Chiefs Helen Henderson of Canim Lake and Andrea Gilbert of Soda Creek will be able to attend.

In addition, the Soda Creek Band Council has requested that Councillor Sheri Sellars be invited to attend an upcoming meeting of our Society members in order to seek answers to various questions and concerns that Band has concerning the possibility of renewing its full participation in the affairs of our Society. We have obtained a quorum of our members for June 18th and at this time of writing are awaiting confirmation from Councillor Sheri that she will be able to join us that day. Dora Demers, the Band's Administrator would also attend. We are delighted to know that a dialogue with this important member Band is possible and are hoping that the outcome will be positive for all concerned.