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December 2018 Newsletter

1. Our Best Wishes for the New Year

There are far too many people and organizations to list by name, but our Society is extremely grateful to all those who have over the past several years contributed to the success we have enjoyed as we move our project towards its conclusion. To all of you we hope you had an enjoyable Christmas holiday and we wish you health and happiness for the upcoming New Year.

2. What We are Looking Forward to in 2019

David Jensen and his team of Lesia Davis and Kathy Curry are moving ahead with the preparation of a draft final report that they plan to present to our five member Bands in late March or early April. With whatever modifications result from those meetings, they anticipate providing their final report by no later than the end of June. It is important to be reminded that David's work has been made possible by the financial contributions of all five member Bands as well as by a most generous grant from the BC Rural Dividend Program. Our thanks to all of them.

Our annual general meeting that was held in late November, saw an agreement to explore the possibility of engaging a professional fundraising consultant. Two names were recommended to us and we are currently in discussions with both of them in an effort to prepare a strategy for starting our efforts to raise the funding for the construction as well as the operation of our proposed Centre:

Carlie Chase is a Secwepemc member of the Skeetchestn Indian Band located at Savona BC, and runs her own consulting company specializing in indigenous community development after having worked for more than 15 years in the Canadian non-profit sector including a period as Director of Partnerships for Reconciliation Canada. She previously led the successful \$15 million fundraising campaign at the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health in Ottawa.

Alexia McKinnon is a member of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nation in the Yukon Territory, and is currently the Associate Director, Indigenous Leadership at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. On behalf of her own First Nation she previously raised more than \$16 million in capital funds in order to build a cultural centre as well as the funding to enable the centre to operate.

We hope to have a strategy in place by the end of January that will enable us to start our fundraising campaign. It should be noted that we already realize the importance of the contributions to that campaign that will be required from the leadership – past and present – of our member Bands.

The senior staff at the UBC Museum of Anthropology have become aware of our overall project and have expressed a serious interest in learning more about it with a view to exploring ways in which the Museum might be able to assist us. That have invited us to bring a group of members to the Museum in the New Year and we are already in the process of securing a date for a one-day session that would introduce us to their exhibits and programs and that would include discussions about how they might be able to contribute to our success.



3. A Sense of our Optimism

Our February 2015 Newsletter contained a photograph of the large 4' x 8' sign that we had erected at the site of the proposed Centre. Amongst other things, the sign stated that we hoped that construction would commence "IN 2016 OR 2017". In hindsight we were evidently somewhat overly optimistic about the timing, but we now feel positioned to make a reality of our project in the foreseeable future, and by the time this edition of our Newsletter reaches you, we will have amended the sign so as to read "IN 2020 OR 2021".

4. A Footnote

This is the 46th edition of our Newsletter that has been published almost every month since the initial one in January 2014. We hope that the Newsletters provide useful information about our progress and our plans, and we invite you to share the contents with others at your places of work. We are always happy to add other names to our mailing lists.
