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February 2019 Newsletter

1. The Exhibit Design Roadmap Project

David Jensen's draft final report is nearing completion, and will hopefully be presented to a series of five community meetings during the first week of April. At this time of writing the Society is working with the five Band Administrators to determine the schedule of half-day meetings to be held on their Reserves. Contrary to what was reported in our January Newsletter, the draft report will not be shared in advance with the five Band Representatives in light of David Jensen's preference to be able to respond in person to the questions and comments as they arise at those community meetings.

2. Our Business Plan

We have been in contact with Suzanne Denbak of Cadence Strategies who oversaw the production of our June 2014 business plan. Almost five years later, it appears as if there is a need for that plan to be updated in light of several factors that have changed during the interim period. We will need to seek outside funding if we are to re-engage Cadence Strategies for this purpose, and our next meeting of Society members will give consideration to this matter.

3. The Timing of the Circulation of this Newsletter

This edition is being circulated earlier than usual, as the Editor will be travelling out of the Province at the normal time of circulation. We continue to hope that the information we are able to provide on a monthly basis, is considered useful – particularly so as we approach the time when we commence the serious search for the funding that will enable us to build and then to operate our proposed Cultural Centre.

4. The Visit to the UBC Museum of Anthropology

A thoroughly useful and informative day-long session was held with senior staff of the Museum on February 1st. The session provided opportunity for the Museum staff to be informed about our overall project, and for the Society representatives to learn about the various ways in which the Museum staff might be able to support the project.

Those of us who were able to travel to Vancouver to attend the session, were: Chief Helen Henderson, Irene Gilbert and Pam Theodore from the Canim Lake Band; Band Councillor and Society Treasurer Harold Duncan, Band Councillor Marie Camille and Band Administrator Marilyn Camille from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation; Society member Ashley George and Heather Johnson, Yucwimentem Coordinator from the Esk'etemc First Nation; and Society Secretary Graham Leslie. We were joined there by exhibit design consultant David Jensen and Kathy Curry of David's office. Four others who had intended to participate in the session, but were prevented from doing so by other last minute commitments, were Stswecem'c Xgat'tem Chief Patrick Harry; Irvine Johnson of the Esk'etemc First Nation; and Band Councillor JoAnne Moiese and Society member Laurie Ilnicki of the Williams Lake Indian Band.



Our Society participants were given a tour of the Museum and the several areas that we need to understand and appreciate when making our own more detailed plans for the opening of our Centre. We came away from the day with much useful and significant advice about how to proceed.

Perhaps the most important piece of advice was that we should not delay in identifying one or more of our Band members as a potential Cultural Centre Director. Various ideas about how to approach that matter will be discussed at an upcoming meeting of Society members.

The photos displayed below portray several members of our party along with some of the MOA staff who conducted the tour.

