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AUGUST 2014 NEWSLETTER

August saw steady progress towards the finalization of the road closure and subdivision processes, and was otherwise dominated by the fundraising campaign for the proposed bridge.

The details of those initiatives are reported below.

1. SUBDIVISION AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE VARIOUS PARCELS

The somewhat complicated work involved in securing the legal documentation for the closure of the MOTI's road allowance and the transfer of land from Telus and the MOTI, was completed with the detailed work of Larry McCrea's office and in particular the extraordinary efficiency of Jenni Guimond. All the required documentation was submitted to the Approving Officer in mid-August, and although timing of the formal registration of the subdivided parcel in the name of the Cariboo Regional District is uncertain, our hope and expectation is that the CRD will assume title before the end of September.

2. LEASE AGREEMENT

The 99-year lease agreement that was previously approved by the CRD Board and by our membership, will be executed as soon as the CRD has assumed title. We are continuing to give consideration to a formal signing ceremony – most desirably at the site – but remain challenged by the uncertainty of the timing of the CRD's assumption of title which in turn makes it impossible at this time to set a specific date. The hope and expectation is that it would take place some time in October.

3. BUSINESS PLAN

A summary of the Business Plan findings was presented to the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council's Leadership Council on July 3rd, and it had originally been our intention to approach our five member Band Councils as soon as possible thereafter in order to request their individual commitments to fund the projected annual deficit to the tune of \$25,000 each for the first five years of operation. Our hope of obtaining the early attention of the five Band Councils has been thwarted by a combination of three factors, namely the recent Supreme Court of Canada decision regarding aboriginal title, the related fact that Canada and British Columbia planned to submit their final cash and land offers to the Shuswap Tribal Council at the end of August, and the Mount Polley Mine's tailings pond breach and its aftermath. We are therefore delaying our approach to the Band Councils until we can be confident that they are ready to consider our request.

4. FUNDRAISING

The plan to solicit funding from the major funding agencies for the construction of our centre, including landscaping, furniture and exhibit equipment, is also on hold, as the commitment of our member Bands that is referred to in the previous section, is a prerequisite to qualifying for any grants towards the construction of the facility.

In the meantime, as reported in an earlier Newsletter, we launched an initiative in mid-June in the form of a mailed request to about 75 medium-sized businesses in 100 Mile House and Williams Lake, inviting them to consider making relatively small donations or alternatively agreeing to act as sponsors of a specific project, thereby making us potentially eligible to receive matching funds from *Arts Vest*.

Our July 2014 Newsletter describes the specific project which involves construction of a bridge to span the fish-bearing Sucker Creek that runs through the soon-to-be subdivided lot. The original purpose of the bridge was to provide pedestrian access to visitors who plan to enter the site of our facility via the Provincial Government's Rest Area. Now incorporated as a secondary purpose of the bridge is a plan to allow snowmobiles and ATVs to cross the creek without- as some less responsible riders now do - fording it, and in the course of so doing, seriously damaging the banks and disturbing the creek bed and the fish that are once again spawning in it.



We are thrilled to be able to report that we have qualified for the matching grants from *ArtsVest* to a maximum amount of \$5,000, and at the time of writing, we had

already received contributions in excess of \$5,000 from more than a dozen sponsors each of whom has pledged the \$200 or more that is necessary in order to qualify for a matching grant from *ArtsVest*. Several other businesses have our request under active consideration. A more detailed account and action plan is set out on our website at www.nsculturalsociety.ca. We are extremely grateful to our benefactors, and take pleasure in listing them both below and on our website

BMO, 100 Mile House
Heartland Toyota
Hub International Barton Insurance
OK Tire, Williams Lake
Mount Polley Mining
Pharmasave, 100 Mile House
Regency Chrysler
RBC Royal Bank

Sandman Inn
Save-On-Foods
Sitka Log Homes
Sunrise Ford
The Coast Fraser Inn
Tim Hortons, 100 Mile House
West Fraser Mills
Williams Lake & District Credit Union

In addition, we have received offers of in-kind contributions from:

Beamac Installations
Canada Safeway
Windsor Plywood, Williams Lake

Home Hardware, Williams Lake
McDonald's Restaurant

NOTES TO THE READER

1. If you would like to forward this Newsletter to friends or colleagues, please feel completely free to do so.
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.