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DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

The timing of this edition of our Newsletter provides an opportunity to express the hope that all our readers not only enjoyed a very happy Christmas holiday season, but also will experience a happy and successful 2015 accompanied by good health. Our members wish all of you and your loved ones everything we wish for ourselves.

1. BUSINESS PLAN

Our business plan with its accompanying request for a 5-year funding commitment was approved by the Canim Lake Band Council during the month, and January dates have been established for its consideration by the Esketemc and Williams Lake Band Councils.

2. OUR BRIDGE BUILDING PROJECT

During December we made an application to the *New Pathways to Gold Society* for an amount that together with the sponsorships and donations that we have already raised from the 100 Mile House and Williams Lake business communities, would be sufficient to build the bridge in the spring of 2015. We have been invited to meet the Society's Board of Directors in late January when we will have the opportunity to speak to our application.

In the meantime we are proceeding with the review of Celtic Engineering's estimate, and have gone back to those of the local businesses that did not respond to our original campaign in the hope of supplementing the amount already so generously contributed by various businesses and acknowledged both in earlier Newsletters, in newspaper advertisements and permanently on our website.

3. THE OVERALL PROJECT

Our main fundraising campaign has now taken on a new dimension. For the actual construction we plan to solicit the first \$250,000 from the Northern Development

Initiative Trust, and will make our formal application in the last quarter of 2015, using the earlier months to approach various other funding agencies. That effort will start in January.

What we have already started is a campaign to raise the amount that will be needed to commission our architects to carry out design development and the preparation of construction documents – two tasks that are expected to require up to 10 months. The hoped for sources of this funding are the major companies that do business in the South and Central Cariboo, and if we are successful in this venture, we would end 2015 with a shovel-ready project and the financing to carry out construction in 2016.

4. SUPPORT FOR THE OVERALL PROJECT

Our application for a grant from the *Northern Development Initiative Trust* requires a resolution of support from the local government within whose boundaries the project is located. In this instance it is the Cariboo Regional District whose Board passed the requested resolution at its December 2014 meeting. For that we thank the Board as we also thank the Councils of the District of 100 Mile House and the City of Williams Lake, each of which had passed a resolution of support earlier in 2014. We are also most grateful for letters of support provided by the South Cariboo Chamber of Commerce and by the Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce. They will all be extremely helpful when we make our formal applications for funding.

5. FUTURE EDITIONS OF THIS NEWSLETTER

We enter 2015 with every intention of continuing to publish on a monthly basis, but will abandon the practice in the event there is little or nothing of significance to report in any given month. We continue to hope that you all maintain a healthy interest in our overall project, and thank you for the interest and in many instances the support you have provided to us up to this point in time.

6. OUR BEST WISHES ONE MORE TIME

As a token of our sincerity in wishing you all the best for the coming New Year, we take the liberty of repeating what we wished you in the opening paragraph of this edition. It also seems an appropriate time to invite your comments and questions about the project or about the Newsletter at the same time as we thank those of you who have already done so.

October ceremony on the site of the proposed cultural centre and museum.

Details at <http://www.nsculturalsociety.ca/lease-ceremony-2014.html>



Left to right are: Society President Irene Gilbert; Canim Lake Chief Mike Archie; Society Secretary Graham Leslie (seated); Canoe Creek Chief Patrick Harry; CRD Chair Al Richmond (partially hidden); and Society Solicitor Larry McCrea.

NOTES TO THE READER

1. If you would like to forward this Newsletter to friends or colleagues, please feel completely free to do so.
3. 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