



## JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

This is the first of what are intended to be monthly newsletters, updating the progress that is being made towards the goal of constructing a cultural centre and museum at the 108 Mile Lake site.

### 4 CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

Cultural Centre building with fire circle to the left.



***All recipients are urged to read the footnotes set out at the end of this newsletter***

## **1. PURCHASE OF MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION (MOTI) LAND**

The Cariboo Regional District (CRD) agreed prior to Christmas 2013 to accept title to the MOTI land that will form a part of the new consolidated lot, and our Society (NSCS) has made the initial down payment on the sale price.

## **2. SUBDIVISION AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE VARIOUS PARCELS**

The Society has satisfied all of the conditions demanded by MOTI for subdivision (or has undertaken to satisfy them following subdivision). The process is being delayed for a short time in order to permit a small additional portion of the MOTI property to be added to the parcel that has already been purchased.

## **3. LEASE AGREEMENT**

CRD Staff and NSCS representatives entered negotiations in late 2013 and arrived at an agreement before Christmas which has been approved by the NSCS membership and by the CRD Board. Execution of the lease awaits completion of the subdivision process and the subsequent registration of title in the name of the CRD.

## **4. WELL CLOSURE**

It was recently discovered that in 1969 Block Brothers had dug an experimental well on the MOTI property. One of the conditions of the subdivision approval is that the well must be closed prior to the end of June 2014. Weston Water Wells of Lone Butte has been commissioned to do this work, and made a preliminary assessment of the task on January 30<sup>th</sup>. The task will be carried out as soon as weather permits.

## **5. SOIL TESTING**

A further condition of the subdivision approval is that the NSCS must demonstrate by the end of June 2014 that the consolidated property can support a type 1 septic system. Although the NSCS expects to install a type 2 system in due course, it has commissioned Grassroots Septic of Eagle Creek to carry out the soil testing as soon as weather permits.

## **6. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

A further condition of the subdivision approval is that an environmental assessment must be carried out by the end of June 2014. North West Environmental has been engaged to conduct this assessment and any remedial work that the NSCS may have inherited from the neighbouring Telus property, and aims to have this work completed before the end of February 2014.

## **7. WEBSITE**

Our website was recently updated with images taken from our architects' Schematic Design Report of December 2013. They have asked us not to add a link to the report on the website for reasons of confidentiality, but the full report is accessible via a Drop Box, and the means of accessing it can be provided upon request to those who don't already have the information.

## **8. SCHEMATIC DESIGN REPORT**

As already mentioned, the final report prepared by McFarland Marceau Architects Ltd. was received prior to Christmas 2013. Its findings and conclusions are in the process of being presented to the Society's five constituent Band Councils, and on February 5, 2014 they will be presented to the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council's Leadership Council.

## **9. BUSINESS PLAN**

It was long since recognized by the NSCS that the prospects of receiving approval to proceed to the fundraising and construction phases of the project depend upon the existence of a viable business plan. NSCS members worked diligently throughout the second half of 2013 on preparing the outline of such a plan, and with generous financial support from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, it has been possible to engage Cadence Strategies to convert the previous work into a complete plan that is expected to be finalized before the end of May 2014 at which time its conclusions will be presented to the five constituent Band Councils for their hoped for approval.

## **10. OUTSIDE GRANTS**

We would be remiss if in this initial Newsletter we didn't acknowledge the generous financial support we have received during the past 10 years, not only from our five constituent Northern Secwepemc Bands, but also from the following other bodies: Cariboo Regional District; Northern Initiative Development Trust; Heritage Canada; Western Economic Diversification Canada; and Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition.

