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OCTOBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

The progress noted in our September Newsletter came to a handful of happy endings during the past month. The road closure and subdivision processes were completed, title to the consolidated lot was registered in the name of the Cariboo Regional District, the previously approved 99-year lease agreement was executed, a ceremony to mark the signing was held, and the project received wide media coverage from radio stations and newspapers in Williams Lake and 100 Mile House.

1. SUBDIVISION AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE VARIOUS PARCELS

In several previous Newsletters we have referred to the 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, and it is with pleasure and relief that we now report that these tasks have been completed. Elsewhere we have noted the extraordinarily efficient and patient work that was carried out on our behalf by Nigel Hemingway and Doerte Pavlik of Cariboo Geographic Systems and by Larry McCrea and Jenni Guichon of Larry McCrea Law Corporation. It seems worthwhile to mention their contributions one more time and to express our thanks to them all.

2. EXECUTION OF THE LEASE AGREEMENT AND THE RELATED CEREMONY

The 99-year lease agreement between the Society and the CRD was executed at a ceremony held on the morning of Tuesday, October 14th on the edge of the site of our future cultural centre and museum. Representatives of all five member Bands were in attendance, and Canim Lake Band Chief Mike Archie welcomed the almost 50 guests to the traditional territory of the five Northern Secwepemc Bands. The speeches were brief and to the point, and the contributions of the many individuals and organizations that have brought our project to its present state, were gratefully acknowledged. It was particularly gratifying that 3 senior TELUS representatives were able to attend. The full account of the expression of thanks is on our website – www.nsculturalsociety.ca - along with photographs taken by Jeffrey Newman.

3. BUSINESS PLAN

As reported in our September 2014 Newsletter, we did make our approach to the Band Councils in late August in the hope they will be able to consider our request for a 5-year commitment to the operation of our centre during the balance of this calendar year. Their approval remains a prerequisite to us making any applications to fund the construction of our proposed centre. Once we have that commitment from all five Bands, we have several promising sources of the funding required for the construction of the centre.

4. FUNDRAISING

In mid-September our members approved a conceptual bridge design prepared by our architects McFarland Marceau, and in the last week of October we approached Celtic Engineering of Williams Lake with a request for it to take the architectural drawings and provide us with an estimate of the cost to build the bridge – hopefully in early Spring 2015. That estimate will be considered by our membership in late November, and a decision will be made whether to accept it or whether to invite bids from other potential builders.

Including a small amount that we had raised in previous years, we now have slightly over \$6,000 in our bridge building account, and anticipate having at least \$5,000 of that amount matched by the *ArtsVest* program of *Business for the Arts*. As soon as we have a reasonably precise cost estimate for building the bridge as well as for fencing, hedging and graveling the pathway linking the government rest area to the site, we will renew our solicitation of the business community in the hope of making up any shortfall that will probably exist.

We are extremely grateful to our benefactors, and take pleasure again in listing the business sponsors below and on our website - recent additions highlighted in red. They are all acknowledged in upcoming newspaper advertisements made possible by the generosity of the *100 Mile Free Press* and the *Williams Lake Tribune*.

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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.