



PO Box 553
108 Mile Ranch, B.C. V0K 2Z0
tel: 250.791.7267
E-mail: grahamleslie@shaw.ca

<http://www.nsculturalsociety.ca/>

JANUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

Since we issued our December 2014 Newsletter, the full impact of the fall in crude oil prices has been felt in all parts of our economy. Not the least impacted is our federal government, and given the assurances of finance minister Joe Oliver that he still plans to balance his 2015/2016 budget without raising taxes, it seems obvious that there will have to be cuts and that one of the prime areas that seems destined for cuts will be federal contributions to the arts and culture. We therefore need to be prepared for failure to raise the capital for the construction of our facility during 2016, but can nevertheless proceed to position ourselves for the eventual time when that funding will become available. Ideas about how we can best accomplish this objective are set out in this Newsletter.

1. BUSINESS PLAN

Our business plan with its accompanying request for a 5-year funding commitment has now been approved by the Band Councils of Canim Lake, Canoe Creek and Williams Lake, a date has been established for its consideration by the Soda Creek Band Council, and a date is currently being arranged with the Band Council at Esket.

2. OUR BRIDGE BUILDING PROJECT

Our December application to the Board of the *New Pathways to Gold Society* for a grant was approved in late January, and together with the sponsorships and donations that we have already raised from the 100 Mile House and Williams Lake business communities, will be sufficient to build the bridge in the spring of 2015.

The one notable addition to our list of sponsors is the 100 Mile House Snowmobile Club whose generous donation was especially appreciated in view of the fact that its support for this mini project was instrumental in us qualifying for matching grants from *ArtsVest BC*.

During the next few weeks we will proceed to review the estimate we earlier received from Celtic Engineering, with a view to incorporating into this project as much First Nations labour and equipment operation as possible. In a future edition we will list once more the numerous businesses and individuals whose generosity is

making it possible to construct this bridge as a monument to the cooperation between them and our Society.

3. THE OVERALL PROJECT

For the actual construction of our facility we still plan to solicit the first \$250,000 from the Northern Development Initiative Trust, and will make a formal application towards the end of 2015. In case the assessment set out in our opening paragraph is wrong, we will still use the earlier months to approach other funding agencies. That effort will start as soon as we have funding commitments from all five of our Bands.

In order 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 – we have already approached 10 of the major corporations that do business in the South and Central Cariboo, and as mentioned last month, if we are successful in this venture, we would have a shovel-ready project by early 2016.

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



Society President Irene Gilbert and CRD Chair Al Richmond exchange gifts