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MARCH 2015 NEWSLETTER

There was activity on several fronts during March, all of which are reported on below.

1. BUSINESS PLAN

Our business plan with its accompanying request for a 5-year funding commitment which had already been approved by the Band Councils of Canim Lake, Canoe Creek and Williams Lake, was considered by the Soda Creek Band Council on February 24th, and will be given further consideration by the Band Council once the newly elected Chief Donna Dixon has taken up the reins of office. President Irene Gilbert and immediate past president Alana Dixon met with the Band Council at Esket on March 23rd, and received a very positive reception which we are hoping will be translated into approval of our request in the near future.

2. OUR BRIDGE BUILDING PROJECT

During March we started the review of Celtic Engineering's preliminary estimate, and we will continue in early April to work on a final budget with a view to incorporating into this project as much First Nations labour and equipment operation as possible. We aim to conclude the final contract during April, and to construct the bridge during late April or early May. We also look forward to planning a simple ceremony to mark completion of this mini project at which we will honour the many local businesses that contributed financially and – with *ArtsVest B.C.* and the *New Pathways to Gold Society* – are making it possible to build the bridge at this time.

3. THE OVERALL PROJECT

We are still awaiting the operational funding commitments from the last two of our five Bands before we can approach the two senior levels of government for the major portion

