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## October/November 2021 Newsletter

### 1. Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained

Although it remains a very long shot, we filed applications during the last week of November with two Federal Government departments to fund the major portion of a budget that has been increased in order to meet the rising cost of construction and other related items. We continue to rely on the \$300,000 approved by the Northern Development Initiative Trust earlier this year, and which is being held for us until next April.

The reason for a lack of optimism is that although our project has been highly regarded – and in some cases enthusiastically so, by a succession of federal and provincial agencies throughout its 17-year life, the amounts we are seeking represent a significantly large proportion of the available funding that must realistically be shared with numerous other worthwhile projects. However, as the heading of this item suggests, if nothing is ventured, nothing can be gained.

The two departments we have approached are Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, and Canadian Heritage, neither of which is likely to make final decisions before April or May 2022. We will therefore make all necessary preparations in order to be able to take advantage of any good fortune.

### 2. The Exhibit Design Project

During the months of September and October, David Jensen's team interviewed numerous Canim Lake Band members via Zoom, and were rewarded by a wealth of inspiring stories and recollections told by Band members both young and old. The team is immensely grateful to Irene Gilbert for all the work she undertook to arrange these interviews, and at this time of writing is engaged in preparing a report that will describe what the team heard and how it proposes to convert the material into exhibit format.

In support of the team's work, the Society was successful in obtaining a small grant from the First Peoples' Cultural Council which has enabled a young Band member to work with Irene Gilbert in the selection of items of particular interest within the Band's archives. That work should be completed by Christmas.

### 3. The Society's Annual General Meeting

The Society's annual general meeting has been scheduled for Friday, December 10, and will feature the election of officers for the ensuing year. It is intended that the



meeting will be held in person – with masks and appropriate distancing – and will provide an opportunity for the members to make plans for moving the project forward, and in particular to decide how to do so in the event we fail to obtain the outside funding we are currently seeking.

#### **4. The Challenges Facing Our Province**

In our most recent edition, we were commiserating with those affected by the wildfires that ravaged our province this past summer. While many folks are still coming to terms with their ill fortune, they have been joined by so many more families who have been harmed by the devastating flooding. Although we who live in the Cariboo have so far escaped the worst of the flooding, we realize that many of our Band members and relatives do live in the affected areas, and we ourselves are to a great extent unable to travel by road to visit them or to provide direct help. We take this opportunity to extend our very best wishes to all of them, and wish them a safe and early recovery from their unhappy situations.



#### **Notes to the Reader**

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