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December 2021 Newsletter

1. Our Annual General Meeting

The Society held its 2021 Annual General Meeting on December 10th, and among other matters held its election of officers and directors for the ensuing year with the following results.

- President: Irene Gilbert of the Canim Lake Band;
- Vice President: Kerry Chelsea of the Esk'etemc First Nation;
- Treasurer: Harold Duncan of the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation;
- Secretary: Graham Leslie of the 100 Mile House & District Historical Society;
and
- Director at Large: Alana Dixon of the Canim Lake Band.

2. The Exhibit Design Project

The young Canim Lake Band member employed during November and December courtesy of a grant from the *First Peoples' Cultural Council*, was Lillian Emile. Under Irene Gilbert's supervision and with unlimited access to the Band's massive collection of maps, documents and files, Lillian identified many stories and documents that have proven to be really helpful to David Jensen's exhibit design team in their ongoing work with the Band. David's team is continuing to work with the great materials they have accumulated, and its draft report – for review by and with the Band – is expected to be completed in the new year.

3. The Path Ahead for our Project

Our annual general meeting provided an opportunity for our members to discuss the ways in which our project might be moved forward, and the following possibilities emerged from the discussions.

- Our long-standing aim to construct and operate a major cultural centre at the 108 Mile Lake site, rests in the first instance on the results of our current applications for external funding;
- If those external funding applications don't succeed, the long-term future of the major centre will rest with our member Bands – possibly financed from the proceeds of the current treaty negotiations if the Society's aims are considered by them to be of sufficiently high priority;



- In the meantime, it is recognized that the work being carried out by our member Bands with the David Jensen exhibit design team, will be a prerequisite to sharing the stories and programs in whatever forums turn out eventually to be available to exhibit them;
- With funding already in place to continue David Jensen's work with the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation in 2022, we will seek funding to enable work to be carried out with the Esk'etemc First Nation as soon as possible and, if either of them is willing, with the Soda Creek and the Williams Lake Indian Bands as well;
- While we are awaiting the funding to enable the proposed cultural centre to be built and to start operating, we will examine and discuss with our member Bands the options of creating one or two smaller central hubs – perhaps in 100 Mile House and/or Williams Lake – and linking them up with exhibits on the individual Band reserve lands.

4. Our Best Wishes for the Holiday Season

In view of the many disruptions to our normal ways of life that we have all experienced during the past almost two years, it seems awkward to be wishing our readers a Merry Christmas, but you may be certain that we wish you a safe holiday season with as much pleasure as is possible with as many family members and friends as can congregate safely with you. Our wishes also extend to a new year that will most hopefully see us turning the corner on the pandemic and starting on a return to normal.



Notes to the Reader

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