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FEBRUARY & MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

1. THE RESULTS OF OUR FUNDING APPLICATION

On Friday, February 24th, we were notified that our application to the BC Rural Dividend Fund had been approved in full, with the result that when supplemented by the financial contributions of the Esketemc First Nation and of the Canim Lake, Canoe Creek and Williams Lake Bands, our architects will be able to commence their preparation of the construction documentation required for us to tender the work of the actual construction.

McFarland Marceau Architects Ltd. aim to complete their work by the end of the current calendar year, thus providing our Society the time to organize the funding required for both the construction and eventual operation of the proposed facility.

Our readers can well imagine that when our Society membership met on March 17th, there was much celebration of a most important step towards the realization of our dream of almost 13 years.

Most of the outside funding for our overall project had previously come from the Federal Government, but in this case we are delighted to acknowledge the support of the B.C. Government through its Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, and that Ministry's Rural Secretariat whose Minister is the Hon. Donna Barnett, MLA for Cariboo-Chilcotin. We have already expressed our thanks to her.

2. OUR UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

While our architects use the balance of this calendar year to carry out their work, our membership will be turning its attention to the serious business of seeking the funding to enable construction to proceed. That effort began on March 17th.

3. INTRODUCING OUR MEMBERS

Having already introduced to you our newest member Helen Sandy in the December 2016 edition, and our current President Irene Gilbert in the January 2017 edition, it is with considerable pleasure that we introduce our Vice President Patrick Harry in this edition.



Kukpi7 (Chief) Patrick Harry

is the son of Alfred (Audie) Chelsea and Helen Harry, paternal grandson of Patrick Chelsea and Anastacia Chelsea, and maternal grandson of former Stswecemc Xgattem Kukpi7 Antoine Harry and Julia Alphonse of Sugar Cane. Patrick has four children with partner Ariane – three boys, Damian 13, Antoine 10 and Patrick 7 months, and one princess named Soraya Allison Harry 2.

Patrick is now in his second consecutive term as Kukpi7 of Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation (SXFN). Prior to his first term as Chief, Patrick served two terms as a member of the SXFN Council, from 2008-2010 and from 2012-2014, an invaluable experience which prepared him for his role as Kukpi7.

Prior to holding any leadership positions at SXFN, Patrick was employed by both SXFN and the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem Development Corporation (SXDC). At SXFN Patrick was employed as Natural Resources Manager and more recently as Economic Development Manager. It was the work that Patrick completed at SXDC involving both Archaeological Impact Assessments and Preliminary Field Reconnaissance that sparked his interest in Cultural Heritage.

An experience in 2002 at an Archaeology Field School hosted by the Northern Secwepemc and UNBC held at Tspeten (Gustafsen Lake) where he catalogued and documented thousands of artifacts, made Patrick wonder where these important artifacts actually end up after they are recorded. As Patrick sadly learned, most of them would end up in a dark backroom of some museum basement.

Patrick says that it is his hope that when we complete the construction of our state-of-the-art Cultural Centre at the 108 Mile Lake in Secwepemc Territory, we as Northern Secwepemc people will be able to showcase our history, and the next generations of our people will be able to learn more about their long history in the territory. Patrick is very happy to serve as a Director and Vice President of the Northern Secwepemc Cultural Society, and says it has been a pleasure to work with such a dedicated group. He feels that our best is yet to come. Kukstemc

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