



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

<http://www.nsculturalsociety.ca>

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

1. OUR 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We held our 2017 Annual General Meeting in Williams Lake on October 18th at which the following officers and directors were elected to one-year terms.

President: Kerry Chelsea, Esk'etemc First Nation
Vice President: Irene Gilbert, Canim Lake Band
Treasurer: Laurie Ilnicki, Williams Lake Indian Band
Secretary: Graham Leslie, 100 Mile House & District Historical Society
Director at Large: Harold Duncan, Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation

The second position of Director at Large remains open for the Soda Creek Band to fill in due course.

2. OUR CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

In conjunction with our Annual General Meeting, we received a progress report from architect Craig Duffield on the Construction Documentation phase of our overall project. Craig's report contained the very welcome news that the more detailed cost estimate that had been established by their cost consultant was in line with that previously provided by McFarland Marceau Architects Ltd. This phase of the work is on schedule notwithstanding the delays caused by the recent fire season, and we continue to anticipate receiving a final report by the end of January 2018.

3. FUNDING APPLICATIONS

We applied in late Spring of this year for a grant from the B.C. Gaming Commission in order to cover the cost of engaging David Jensen & Associates to renew the task of working with specialists in each of our five member Bands in order to continue identifying the artifacts, documents, photographs and stories that each community will be willing to share with the Society for the purpose of including them in the Centre. Unfortunately the application was unsuccessful, but we intend to reapply at the next opportunity with a view to making further progress on this important step.

We have also applied for a \$20,000 grant from INAC that, if successful, would enable McFarland Marceau to expand the work of the Construction Documentation phase.

4. INTRODUCING OUR MEMBERS

It is always a pleasure for your Editor to have the opportunity to introduce to you our outstanding and gifted Society members. Leaving to future editions Alana Dixon, Canim Lake Band Administrator, and Patricia Chelsea, Managing Director and Band Councillor of the Esk'etemc First Nation, we now introduce Harold Duncan.



Harold is from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek Indian Band), and is the son of Mable (Rosette) Duncan and James Duncan. He was first elected to his Band Council in 2014, and in his first term held the Education/Culture/Youth portfolio in which he learned through his involvement with the First Nations Education Steering Committee and the First Nations Student Association that things were a little more complicated than he had previously thought them to be.

In October 2014, Harold was appointed by his Band Council to membership in our Cultural Society which he has continued to hold until now. During his tenure, our Society has succeeded in securing property at the 108 Mile Lake for development of its museum and cultural centre, and has made significant strides towards that objective as we have reported in earlier editions of our Newsletter.

In 2016 Harold was re-elected to his Band Council for a 4-year term during which he holds the Treaty portfolio. As the Treaty portfolio holder, Harold attends tripartite negotiations for the NStQ Treaty Team with the provincial and federal governments, but still maintains a connection to his other main areas of interests in community, education and youth, promoting increased community involvement for youth and young adults. Harold remembers with pride the way his community pulled together a 60-person fire crew to respond to local forest fires in 2009 and again in 2017.

Harold brings a quiet and measured approach to the deliberations of our Cultural Society and makes an invaluable contribution to those deliberations in support of his Band's other member, Chief Patrick Harry who is our Vice President and who was featured in the February and March 2017 edition of our Newsletter.

NOTES TO THE READER

1. If you would prefer not to receive future monthly Newsletters, please notify us by email addressed to grahamleslie@shaw.ca.
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