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DECEMBER 2017 & JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

OUR VERY BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR

Hopefully all our readers enjoyed a safe and happy Christmas holiday season, and this edition allows us to repeat our best wishes to you all for a very happy and rewarding 2018.

1. OUR CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

This phase of our overall project proceeds on schedule, and we continue to anticipate receiving a final report by the end of January or early February 2018. Our architects will be traveling to Williams Lake to present their report to us on February 16th. As we reported last month, we continue to await a decision on the \$20,000 grant application we made to INAC in October that, if successful, will enable us to pay McFarland Marceau for having expanded the work of its Construction Documentation phase and for carrying out some tasks that were originally curtailed because of a shortage of funds. We were recently informed by the architects that they have proceeded to incorporate this extra work into their current work plan, realizing that we may be unable to cover their costs at this time if our funding application is unsuccessful. This generous gesture typifies the genuine interest that our architects – through the agency of Marie Marceau – have shown in our project since they first became involved with us several years ago. We thank them most heartily.

2. FUNDING APPLICATIONS

As forecast in last month's edition, we have submitted our application to the BC Rural Dividend program for a grant of \$100,000, and by its February 9, 2018 deadline we had also applied to the Northern Development Initiative Trust for a grant of \$30,000 to accompany what we hope will be the BC Rural Dividend grant. Unfortunately, our application failed to fall within the parameters of any of the NDIT's funding criteria, and we have therefore resorted to seeking alternative sources of funding. They include the CRD's Cariboo Strong program, INAC and the NDIT's new Strategic Initiatives Fund whose deadline for submission of applications is March 15th. If we are successful, the \$130,000 will enable us to retain David Jensen's renowned exhibit design firm to start the serious task of working with our five-member Bands on identifying the artifacts, photographs, historical documents and stories that the Bands and their members will be willing to share with us and to have us display in due course in our proposed Centre.

3. INTRODUCING OUR MEMBERS

The very last of our eight current voting members to be featured in our Newsletters is Patricia Chelsea of the Esk'etemc First Nation.



Patricia is both a Band Councillor and, since January 2015, the Managing Director of the Esk'etemc First Nation, formerly known as the Alkali Lake Indian Band. She is a graduate of BCIT's Management Systems program and has been working in the area of Business Management since 1998. In her capacity as Managing Director Patricia functions as what in most other Bands is known as Band Administrator, and as such works as coordinator for the Esk'etemc Council with responsibility for the overall management of the organization's department heads. Patricia represented the Esk'etemc First Nation as a member of our Society from August 2010 until November 2013, and again from November 2016 to the present. She is joined as a representative of her Band by Kerry Chelsea who was elected as President at our most recent Annual General Meeting. Between the two of them our Society has a very strong presence in the deliberations of the Esk'etemc Band Council.

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