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April 2019 Newsletter

1. Our 50th Edition

This edition marks our 50th since the publication of our initial one in January 2014. We count among our readers all current Band Council members, our own Society members and a considerable number of friends of our project and others who have demonstrated over a lengthy period of time their interest in it. We try to keep you all informed of the significant events that relate to our project, and hope that we meet that objective. Our thanks for your interest.

2. The Exhibit Design Roadmap Project

April 30th saw the conclusion of this very significant project and the receipt of the final report from our consultants D. Jensen & Associates. David Jensen, his Executive Assistant Kathy Curry and his associate Lesia Davis did a wonderful job of identifying and capturing the ideas, thoughts and wishes of the many individual Band members who attended one or more of the three meetings his team held with each of our member Bands. In this work they were greatly assisted by the five individuals who had been appointed by their respective Bands to work with David's team - Irene Gilbert from Canim Lake, Marie Camille from the SXFN, Ashley George from Esk'et, Cheryl Chapman from Xat'sull and Laurie Innicki from the Williams Lake Band.

David's final Exhibit Roadmap report was delivered electronically to the Society on April 26th, and will be going to the printer on April 29th. Once printed, copies will be distributed to each Society member and to each of the five special representatives who worked with David's team and who will hopefully continue working to prepare the exhibits and programs that will eventually be featured in our Centre.

Finally, it should be noted with many thanks that David Jensen's project was made possible by the financial contributions of all five of our member Bands and by a grant of \$100,000 from the BC Rural Dividend Program.

3. The Next Meeting of Society Members

All of the business of the Society is carried out by the full membership which in recent years has met three or four times a year as major decisions are needed. The next meeting will be held on June 3rd and will aim among several other important matters, to set the parameters for a fundraising campaign for the money to build our proposed Centre. We will be seeking a substantial amount of funding, and the probability is that the Society will decide upon the need for a professional fundraiser to support the efforts of the Society members and our member Bands. The resulting decision will be reported in a slightly delayed May Newsletter.

Also, on the agenda will be consideration of establishing a program for a handful of individual Band members to take advantage of an offer from the UBC Museum of Anthropology to receive training in a variety of museum-related disciplines.



We mentioned in our March 2019 edition that we are working on a promotional brochure to support the fundraising campaign, and a draft will receive consideration at this upcoming meeting.

Consideration will also be given to whether or not it would be prudent to update our 2014 business plan. Discussions with various tourism professionals suggest that the negative impact of the wildfires we have experienced in the Cariboo have been more or less offset by the steady increase in visitors to Canada and BC who are particularly interested in indigenous culture. It is also suggested that even if our 2014 plan were to be updated at this point, it might well be outdated by the time we actually build our Centre.

4. Our Website

We recently updated our website – www.nsculturalsociety.ca – and invite all our readers to inspect it. Any comments or suggestions for improvement would be greatly appreciated.



Notes to the Reader

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