



P.O. Box 553  
108 Mile Ranch, B.C. V0K 2Z0  
tel: 250.791.7267  
fax: 250.791.7297  
email: [grahamleslie@shaw.ca](mailto:grahamleslie@shaw.ca)

## May 2019 Newsletter

### 1. Our June 3rd Membership Meeting

Our members met in Williams Lake on Monday, June 3rd and as expected, made a number of very important decisions regarding the way forward.

### 2. Funding Our Project

As had been the case in late 2014 when the Society first considered formulating a plan to raise the funding for construction from outside sources, it was recognized that no potential funding source was likely to contribute to the project without knowing in advance that the Society had the financial means to operate its Centre once it had been built. In late 2014 and early 2015, four of our five member Bands approved a request for a five-year commitment to fund the estimated annual operating deficit, and it was decided at our June 3rd meeting to seek a renewal of those commitments. A formal request will be forwarded to the Bands in the near future.

### 3. The Need for a Professional Fundraiser

In our March 2019 Newsletter, we introduced you to Alexia Mckinnon of the Banff Centre who we had hoped would assist us in our fundraising efforts. Most sadly Lexie lost her father late last year and took a long leave of absence from her teaching duties in Banff, and although she recently returned to work, doesn't any longer feel able to provide the hoped-for assistance. Prior to reaching out to Lexie McKinnon last year, we had approached Carlie Chase, a Secwepemc Nation member from the Skeetchestn Band of Savona, BC. Carlie has had extraordinary success in raising funds for various projects, and came highly recommended to us by several respected sources. Unfortunately, when we first approached her in the Fall of 2018, she was far too busy to be able to provide her assistance to our cause. We are very excited to report that she has agreed to visit us in Williams Lake this coming Fall at which time we will take advantage of her knowledge and expertise to formulate a fundraising campaign strategy.

### 4. A Promotional Brochure

In recent editions of our Newsletter we referred to our intention to prepare a brochure to assist our fundraisers in their task of promoting our project. During the month of May we carried out work on a draft which with minor modifications was enthusiastically approved by our members at the June 3rd meeting.

### 5. Our Bridge at the Site of the Cultural Centre

The end of June will mark the fourth anniversary of the completion and the dedication of the bridge we built at the site of our proposed Cultural Centre. We have on several previous occasions noted the names of the many individuals and local businesses that contributed financially to that project, and in our June Newsletter we will list them one more time by way of expressing our gratitude. In the



meantime, we plan to have the bridge re-stained, and that task will hopefully be carried out by a work crew from the Canim Lake Band whose members assembled the bridge back in June 2014.

## **6. The Subject of the Residential Schools**

The topic of the Residential Schools is a very delicate one that arouses every kind of emotion among the families and communities that were affected by the federal Government policies that created the schools. And although there are some individuals who have happy memories of their time in the residential schools, there are many more who suffered all kinds of abuse and who—along with their other family members—experienced severe forms of trauma. When we open our Cultural Centre, it may be felt appropriate to exhibit the history of those schools—and most particularly the St. Joseph’s Mission Residential School near Williams Lake. In order to prepare for that possibility our members have decided to invite a handful of community leaders to form a committee that will inform and advise us of possible ways to move forward on this issue. If such a group is formed, we won’t expect to be able to report on its progress for some time.

## **7. Wishing All Our Readers an Enjoyable Summer**

We close this edition with our very best wishes to all our readers and their loved ones for a summer full of good health and happiness.

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### **Notes to the Reader**

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