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July 2019 Newsletter

1. Funding the Centre's Operations

As indicated in our June 2019 Newsletter was our intention, formal requests were mailed in mid-July by our President, Kerry Chelsea, to the Chiefs and Band Councils of the Esk'etemc First Nation and the Canim Lake, Canoe Creek and Williams Lake Bands. It remains our hope that we will receive positive responses to those requests by the end of the summer.

2. Funding Construction of the Centre

We have maintained contact with Carlie Chase whom we hope will agree to act as our consultant for the campaign to raise the large amount we will need to finance construction and our exhibits, and we continue to hope that she will be available to meet with our members in late September or early October to help us map out our campaign. At any such meeting we would very much hope to be joined by the Chiefs of our member Bands. As we approach the as yet to be determined date of that meeting, we plan to provide you with more information about Carlie and her fundraising record.

3. Our Promotional Brochure

Since the date of our last Newsletter, we decided to commission a first printing of our Brochure, and have now received a run of 100 copies. That has enabled us to deliver a copy to each of our member Band Chiefs and Councillors as well as their Band Administrators. We have also sent copies to key municipal officials, local MLAs and MPs, the museum and tourism associations with which we hold membership, and the local chambers of commerce. Our intention is to set the stage for the fundraising campaign by raising awareness and, we hope, interest in our project. The brochure will in the near future be accessible on our website, and once that occurs, we will report it in our Newsletter.

In our June 2019 edition we reported that we had received a very positive response from Forests Minister, Doug Donaldson, to President Kerry Chelsea's letter advising him of our project. We have also received an equally positive response from the Hon. Lisa Beare, Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture who has invited us to contact her office to schedule a meeting with her. We look forward to taking her up on her offer, and will discuss with her the possibility of including the Hon, Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation at a time when Chief Patrick Harry will be visiting Victoria. In the meantime, we have sent copies of our brochure to all three of the Ministers to whom Kerry Chelsea wrote as well as to their three Deputies.

4. Lexey'em Summer 2019 Edition

As we prepare to launch our fundraising campaign and to draw the attention of Band members to our project, we extend our thanks to Eric Sannes, Communications Manager of the NStQ for his 2-page article entitled Secwepemc History: A Place to Call our Own, that was featured in the latest edition of the Lexey'em magazine which is published periodically by the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council. The magazine is distributed to all NStQ members as well as to numerous other First Nations and other



organizations throughout the province. For any of our readers who would be interested in reading the article and who don't have independent access to the magazine, please feel free to contact Eric by email to communicationsmanager@nstq.org or by phone to 250-392-7361, extension 228.

5. The Sources of our Project's Funding to Date

One of our former Society members who has also served as a member of his Band Council, made an interesting suggestion to your editor recently, namely that Band Councillors who will be considering our request for funding and who may not have been in office for long enough to appreciate the financial contributions that have so far been invested in our project, will be interested in the sources of the very considerable sum that has been invested. For them and for all our other readers, we can report that since 2004 when the first investment was made in the project, the 5 Northern Secwepemc Bands have contributed almost \$172,000, while external bodies – both governmental and private – have donated almost \$712,000. In a future edition we will list those external bodies to all of which we owe a huge debt of gratitude.



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.