



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

September and October 2019 Newsletter

1. Funding the Centre's Operations

We continue to await the results of our request to our member Bands for their commitment to fund the anticipated operating deficit of our Centre, once it has been constructed and opens. The Canim Lake Band Council has already joined the Stswecem'c/Xgat'tem (Canoe Creek/DogCreek) First Nation in approving our request, and the Esk'etemc First Nation continues to have it under consideration.

2. In the Meantime

It became apparent some time ago that our Exhibit Design Consultants require more than the 12 months we have budgeted for construction of the building, in order to convert the wonderful themes and program ideas that were identified in their April 2019 Exhibit Design Roadmap, into actual exhibits and programs.

When our members next meet on November 20th, among other matters they will be considering a proposal to make a start to that next phase of exhibit design development, dependent as usual on our ability to acquire outside funding for it.

With that in mind the Society recently approached *Indigenous Services Canada* in the hope that the department might have some unexpended funds available to us in its current 2019/2020 budget, and although funding is not available now, the senior regional officials have undertaken to start a search for suitable funding for this particular work. They have already identified several potential sources of funding within the Department of *Canadian Heritage*, and are continuing to search for others. Several years ago, *INAC* provided funding to us at a crucial point in our journey that made it possible for us to develop our 2014 Business Plan. We were most grateful to *INAC* then and are extremely grateful for its current offer of support and active assistance.

3. Our Annual General Meeting

The Society's 2019 annual general meeting was held on October 16th, and resulted in the current slate of officers being re-elected for a further one-year term. They are as follows:

President: Councillor Kerry Chelsea of the Esk'etemc First Nation,

Vice President: Irene Gilbert of the Canim Lake Band,

Treasurer: Councillor Harold Duncan of Stswecem'c/Xgat'tem First Nation,

Secretary: Graham Leslie of the 100 Mile House & District Historical Society, and

Member at Large: Laurie Ilnicki of the Williams Lake Indian Band.



4. The Location of Our Centre

At frequent intervals over the past 15 years, the location of our proposed Centre has been questioned – most often by newly elected Band Councillors who were not previously aware of our project. It seems an opportune time to provide an account of the thinking that went into the original decision which has been revisited, reconsidered and reaffirmed numerous times since.

The factors originally considered by representatives of our member Bands, are set out in no particular order of importance as follows:

1. The site is located in close proximity to Highway 97 and to a popular and attractive Government Rest Area that offers excellent parking facilities.
2. The nearby 108 Mile Heritage Site already attracts thousands of visitors to the immediate area between mid-May and mid-September each year.
3. The site is NOT on the reserve lands of any one of the five Northern Secwepemc Bands.
4. The site is approximately equidistant from the main reserves of all five Bands.
5. Because the site is located in an area that already attracts so many visitors. it is ideally suited to act as a hub that will be able to promote the activities and tourist attractions offered by our member Bands, both on their reserves and elsewhere.

Other factors that have reinforced the original decision, include the following:

6. An archaeological impact assessment carried out in 2005 revealed widespread lithic scatterings that indicate a First Nations presence at least 2,000 years ago, and until much more recently it was the location of a summer fishing camp of the Northern Secwepemc people.
7. Although not as well known or as frequently used as the south end of Lac La Hache, the site was a popular gathering place for Northern Secwepemc people prior to the arrival of white settlers.



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.