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February 2020 Newsletter

1. Our Fundraising Project

As previously reported, the Canim Lake and Stswecem'c Xgat'tem Band Councils have already given their approval to our request for a 5-year commitment to fund the anticipated operating deficit for our proposed Centre. The Esk'etemc community meeting that was originally set for February 20th, was held on February 25th, and will inform the decision that its Band Council is expected to make at its next meeting at the end of March.

2. Further Exhibit Design Development

In early February, we submitted an application to the Investment Readiness Program for the \$90,000 budgeted to enable David Jensen and his team of associates to carry out the next phase of exhibit design development at Canim Lake. We expect to learn the outcome of our application at some time in April. If the funds become available, David's team hopes to carry out this task between May and August, and we are already searching for funding that would enable David to carry out similar work at Stswecem'c Xgat'tem and Esk'et.

3. Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Lisa Beare

In early February we accepted Minister Beare's invitation to participate in a telephone conference with herself, her Deputy Minister and several others of her officials. We reported previously on the very warm reception the Minister had given to our approach to her last summer and subsequently to the Chief and Band Councillors from Canim Lake in September. Her response to our update on our progress and on our hopes of funding David Jensen's work at Canim Lake, was equally encouraging. We anticipate keeping in touch with her officials as we jointly search for sources of the funding we need, to carry on with the exhibit design development work.



4. NStQ Tribal Council Leadership Council and Chief Janice George

With the help and support of former Chief Hank Adam in his current role as NStQ Treaty Manager, we have secured time at the April Leadership Council meeting for Squamish Hereditary Chief Janice George to make a presentation relating to the importance of cultural centres to First Nations communities. We hope to have most of the morning of the second day of the meeting – Thursday, April 2nd – for Chief Janice to speak to the Leadership Council.

Chief Janice joined the staff of the B.C. Museums Association (BCMA) in early February in the newly created position of Indigenous Engagement, Partnership and Collaboration Facilitator, and the simplest way to introduce her to our readers is to reproduce what the BCMA wrote about her in its press release as follows.

We are thrilled to have Chepximiya Siyam' Janice George join the BCMA team. She is a curator, designer, teacher, artist, and a hereditary chief of the Squamish Nation and will be working with the BCMA and its members to continue building and strengthening connections between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and organizations across the province.

Chief George looks forward to working with our members and would like to share the following message:

"I am excited to be facilitating relationships between BC Nations and museums. I would love to pass on what it could mean to each community to look at collections, talk to elders and culture keepers and tell the story of our people. It is empowering to all generations, so much can be made from the history and objects, education kits for schools, exhibitions for cultural centres, and collaborative work with museums. I look forward to helping build information sharing between BC Nations and Museums!"



5. Cariboo Regional District Board Presentation

We have responded to the CRD invitation to brief the Board on the status of our project, opting for one of two May 2020 Board meetings, by which time we expect to have learned both the funding decision of the Esk'etemc Band Council and also the outcome of our application to the Investment Readiness Program, thereby giving us a strong sense of what may be achieved by the Society during 2020.



Notes to the Reader

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