



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

February 2021 Newsletter

1. Our Construction Project Hanging by a Thread

In the last week of February, we received the very disappointing news that the *First Peoples' Cultural Council* had not approved our funding application for almost \$300,000. And because our belief was that our application to the *Northern Development Initiative Trust* for the other \$300,000 – intended to provide the leverage for a \$5.4 million grant from the *Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program* – was dependent on acquiring the FPCC grant, it appeared that we had reached the end of this particular path to constructing our facility.

However, two threads are still in play at the time of writing a slightly delayed edition of our Newsletter. The first one is that senior staff at the *Northern Development Initiative Trust* have kindly agreed to submit our application to its Regional Advisory Committee at the end of March, in the knowledge that we are trying to obtain the missing \$300,000 from another source. A favourable recommendation from the RAC would proceed to the full NDIT Board at the end of April, and would be conditional upon our success with this alternative source of funding and in turn, on success with the main application.

The second thread by which we are hanging – and a long shot at best – is my request to Jim Pattison for that missing \$300,000 as a personal favour. Jim's considerable wealth is channelled exclusively through the *Jim Pattison Foundation* which donates tens, if not hundreds of millions of dollars to various charities, but whose focus has been, and still is on the field of medicine. Our project simply doesn't fall within the mandate of the Foundation, but on behalf of our Society I have asked Jim to consider making an exception. At the time of writing, I had submitted a copy of our application to the *Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program* to the Foundation in order to provide it with a basis for carrying out its due diligence, but had not yet heard back from its CEO.

2. The Exhibit Design Development Project

We had previously reported that our application to *Museums Assistance Program* of the Federal *Department of Canadian Heritage* has been recommended by its regional office for approval by Ottawa, but we haven't yet learned the final outcome.



3. COVID-19

Notwithstanding the probability that a sufficient proportion of Canadians will have been vaccinated by early summer, it seems evident that the danger of the pandemic is far from over. Your editor is taking the liberty of offering the opinion that the simplest defences against the virus that were recommended by experts from the outset, i.e. face masking, safe distancing and frequent hand washing, remain as important now and going forward as they always were. We urge all our readers to remain vigilant and offer our best wishes for you to keep yourselves safe.



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.