



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

March/April 2021 Newsletter

1. The Exhibit Design Development Project

Notwithstanding the disappointing news that is recorded in the next section, we are still hopeful that our application to fund David Jensen's continuing work with two of our Bands that was recommended for approval by the Regional Office of the Department of Canadian Heritage, will receive the approval of the Department's Ottawa headquarters. It would be surprising if we didn't learn the final outcome in the very near future.

If we are successful with the full application, there will be enough funding available for David Jensen to carry the exhibit design development forward to the next stage with the Canim Lake Band this year and with the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation next year. In the meantime, we will be searching for the funding to allow this work to be extended to the Esk'etemc First Nation as soon as possible., and perhaps to our other two member Bands. How this exhibit design work might fit into our Society's longer-term plans, will be discussed in section 3.

2. Possible Construction of our Centre

In late April we received the truly disappointing news that the Giving Committee (Board of Directors) of the Jim Pattison Foundation, having evidently given our funding application serious consideration, had nevertheless confirmed our previous understanding that our project fell clearly outside the scope of its criteria, and had decided that in view of its many major commitments - huge multimillion dollar donations to the new St. Paul's Hospital amongst numerous others - it wasn't in a position to fund us.

Our approach had been a really long shot, based on the hope that Jimmy might have some private funds separate and apart from the millions he donates annually to his Foundation, and the further hope that he might be willing to tap into that source as a personal favour to your author. However, such was not to be the case, and although we are very confident that our application to the Northern Trust (NDIT) would have been approved, and it is clear that our \$5.4 million application to the Canada Infrastructure Fund was still under active consideration, we have been forced to resign ourselves to the sad fact that in the absence of our ability to contribute our 10% of the total budget, we will no longer be eligible for the Canada Infrastructure funding.



In an upcoming Newsletter we will communicate the vision that our Society members hold for the future of the project. In the meantime, there will be so many people and organizations to acknowledge and thank for their ongoing support during the past 17 years of our journey to this point, and we will want to record our gratitude to all of them in another upcoming edition.

3. The Benefits of the Continuing Exhibit Design Development Work

Regardless of the vision that emerges from the upcoming meetings of the Society's members, it may be taken for granted that by whatever means may seem appropriate to our member Bands, there will be an appetite to display and share their history, culture and language in some form, whether they may choose to do so individually or collectively. To that almost certain end, the product of David Jensen's work will be essential, and can be counted on to inform and support whatever decisions might eventually be made. In that respect at least, the many years of effort that have been contributed by numerous Band members, and that have been supported by numerous elected Chiefs and Band Councillors, will live on, even if the major project might be placed in mothballs for a while. We will look forward to sharing our vision with our readers in due course.



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.