



P.O. Box 553
108 Mile Ranch, B.C. V0K 2Z0
tel: 250.706.1610
fax: 250.397.2769
email: grahamleslie@shaw.ca

May 2022 Newsletter

1. The Cultural Centre Construction Project

As we were so happy to announce in our Special April edition, we have \$4.3 million at our disposal for the preparation of the site and for the construction of the building, and we are moving swiftly to get this part of our project underway. There are so many people to thank for our good fortune, and we will not fail to keep mentioning (a) the Federal Government's Crown-Indigenous Relations Department (CIRNAC) whose Minister, the Hon. Marc Miller, so graciously visited our site in order to celebrate its \$4 million grant, and (b) the Northern Development Initiative Trust for its \$300,000 grant. There is one other person, however, who was instrumental in paving the way for the Federal grant but whom we have not previously acknowledged in our Newsletters, and that is Kenneth Bateman, the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council's chief negotiator whose efforts on our behalf allowed CIRNAC to channel its grant to us through the Tribal Council. For although CIRNAC had seen great merit in our project, we were not eligible to receive CIRNAC grant moneys directly, and without Kenneth's intervention, we would not have received the grant.

As soon as we learned that we had the necessary funds to start construction, our amazing architects at McFarland Marceau started a search for a construction manager to oversee the project, and their request for proposals was rewarded by several quite outstanding proposals. Following their careful review and assessment of those proposals, they made a recommendation to us which on April 28th we approved. Alfred Horie Construction Co. Ltd. is our construction management company, and has already started to prepare a Class A estimate that will guide us through the start of the project.

Our intention is to undertake the site servicing starting this summer and, if weather permits, to move to the site development in the hope of completing it this year. Whatever is left of the site development by the start of this winter, will be completed next spring along with that spring's and summer's construction of the building.

One of the stipulations we have introduced into our agreement with our new construction manager, is that priority will be given to Northern Secwepemc band members, and when we have learned about the tasks that will be required of the workforce, we will announce the opportunities and qualifications for those tasks.



We have also already reached out to the Cariboo Chilcotin Aboriginal Employment Training Centre to alert its Rhonda LaBelle of the possible – yet to be defined – training opportunities.

Whether or not our progress will be of sufficient interest to justify monthly Newsletters for the next while, will remain to be seen, but we certainly aim to keep our readers abreast of interesting news.

2. The Exhibit Design Development Project

Dates have now been established for David Jensen's team to visit Dog Creek and Canoe Creek for its initial interactions with those SXFN communities. The team will visit on June 14th, 15th and 16th in order to hold face-to-face meetings with community members who have stories to share and ideas about what should be presented in the cultural centre by way of stories, programming and language.



Band Councillor Marie Camille will act as the SXFN liaison person with the David Jensen team, and will be relying on the strong support she has been getting from her Chief Hilary (Hank) Adam and her fellow Band Councillors. She will also be able to rely on advice from our President Irene Gilbert who acted in a similar capacity during David Jensen's work with the Canim Lake Band.

We will be resuming our search for additional funding that will allow David Jensen to carry out similar exhibit design development work with the Esk'etemc First Nation, and plan to keep in close touch with Chief Fred Robbins in that regard.



3. COVID-19

Hopefully your editor will be forgiven for using this platform to address the continuing pandemic by wishing all our readers and their loved ones a safe time ahead which should encompass the simple steps that have been helpful since the start, namely physical distancing to the fullest extent possible, mask wearing (especially in indoor settings which your editor believes is really helpful, although not guaranteeing immunity), and hand washing. It seems to be the general consensus that we will need to live with this pandemic (endemic?) for a long time yet, and hopefully we can all remain safe. Our best wishes to you all in any event.



A flashback to our March 31st ceremony featuring Chiefs Hilary (Hank) Adam and Helen Henderson



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.