



JUNE 2014 NEWSLETTER

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June was indeed an eventful month.

We received the final Business Plan from Suzanne Denbak of Cadence Strategies, saw the completion of the groundwork leading up to subdivision approval of our consolidated lot, and launched a fundraising campaign among the medium-sized businesses of Williams Lake and 100 Mile House.

The details of those initiatives and the progress being made on our other tasks, are reported below.

1. SUBDIVISION AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE VARIOUS PARCELS

All the various approvals that were required for the subdivision have been received, the legal work has been carried out, and at the time of this writing we are very close to completing the subdivision which in turn will permit the lease agreement to be executed. The process has been extremely lengthy and tedious, and our heartfelt gratitude is extended to Nigel Hemingway and Doerte Pavlik of Cariboo Geographic Systems for their untiring perseverance throughout the several years this matter has taken to reach this important stage.

2. LEASE AGREEMENT

Approval of a 99-year lease agreement was previously given by the CRD Board and by our membership. It will be executed as soon as the CRD has assumed title.

3. SCHEMATIC DESIGN REPORT

The report that had previously been approved by the Band Councils of the Canim Lake, Canoe Creek, Soda Creek and Williams Lake Bands, was approved by the Esketemc First Nation's Band Council on June 24th. The five resolutions approve the schematic design, reaffirm the suitability of the land we have acquired at the 108 Mile Lake, and encourage us to proceed to fundraise for the project, subject to the five Band Councils being satisfied in due course that we have a viable business plan.

4. BUSINESS PLAN

Suzanne Denbak of Cadence Strategies met with the Society's full membership on Friday, June 6th, and presented the draft of her final report. She received a handful of suggestions

that she was able to incorporate into her final report which was submitted to us during the last week of June.

Suzanne's projections of revenues and costs are very conservative which enables us to view her projected annual deficit of approximately \$125,000 as very realistic. The deficit which amounts to slightly more than 50% of projected revenue, is a much smaller proportion than the 80% subsidies of the larger Canadian museums and the almost 65% subsidy enjoyed by the Royal B.C. Museum.

We will present the findings of the Business Plan to the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council's Leadership Council on July 2nd and, as soon as possible afterwards, we will approach our five member Band Councils to request their individual commitments to fund the deficit to the tune of \$25,000 each for the first five years of operation.

5. FUNDRAISING

Although the budget for the construction of our centre – including the landscaping, the furniture and a substantial amount for exhibit equipment – is now in the \$3.3 million range, and the funding for that large amount will of necessity have to come from the major funding agencies, we have always felt that it would be extremely helpful to the project if we could attract smaller amounts of financial contributions from individuals and businesses living and operating in the region.

In mid-June, we launched our first initiative in the form of a mailed request to about 75 medium-sized businesses in 100 Mile House and Williams Lake, inviting them to consider making relatively small donations to a specific project, or alternatively agreeing to act as sponsors of that project, thus making us potentially eligible to receive matching funds from *Business for the Arts*.

The specific project involves the construction of a bridge to span the fish-bearing Sucker Creek that runs through the soon-to-be subdivided lot. The original purpose of the bridge was to provide access by foot to visitors who plan to enter the site via the Provincial Government's Rest Area. A secondary purpose of the bridge will be to permit snowmobiles and ATVs to cross the creek without fording it – as some less responsible riders now do – and disturbing the creek bed and the fish that are again spawning in it. We have already received donations from our first two sponsors – OK Tire in Williams Lake and BMO 100 Mile House – each of which has pledged the \$200 necessary to qualify for a matching grant from *Business for the Arts*. We are truly grateful.

NOTES TO THE READER

1. If you would like to forward this Newsletter to friends or colleagues, please feel completely free to do so.
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.