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## APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER

### 1. BUSINESS PLAN

We have previously reported that our business plan with its accompanying request for a 5-year funding commitment has been approved by the Band Councils of Canim Lake, Canoe Creek and Williams Lake. The Band Council at Esket which heard a submission from our president Irene Gilbert and immediate past president Alana Dixon on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, met again on April 27<sup>th</sup> and approved our request that was considered by the Soda Creek Band Council on February 24<sup>th</sup>, immediately prior to the election of a new Chief. The newly elected Chief Donna Dixon who is a past president of our Society, will bring our request forward for a decision once she has settled into her new office.

### 2. OUR BRIDGE BUILDING PROJECT

Celtic Engineering's preliminary estimate that we hoped would have been completed and approved by our members by the end of April, was delayed while we negotiated prices with several suppliers. It remains our hope to have the bridge constructed during May, and we are agreed in principle that a substantial amount of the labour and some of the equipment operation will be carried out by our Band members. We still look forward to conducting a simple ceremony following the completion of construction to honour the many local businesses that contributed financially and – with *ArtsVest B.C.* and the *New Pathways to Gold Society* – have made it possible to build the bridge at this time.

### 3. THE OVERALL PROJECT

Our approach to the two senior levels of government and other potential donors for the major portion of the funds needed for construction, continues to await the approval of our operational funding proposal by the last of our five member Bands.

In the hope that in the meantime we might be able to raise the first \$156,000 that will enable our architects to complete design development and construction documentation during 2015, we held an information session in Vancouver on April 7<sup>th</sup>, graced by the presence of Chief Mike Archie and which was attended by several major corporations whose representatives were given the opportunity to meet our architects and exhibit design consultant and to be briefed on the overall project. We have already received a generous contribution from CN, and remain hopeful that we will succeed in meeting our preliminary target of \$156,000 within the coming months. The organizations that were represented at the April 7<sup>th</sup> session and those that had expressed interest in attending but whose representatives were unable to do so on the date we chose, are listed as follows.

In attendance: Atco Sustainable Communities Inc, BC Hydro, Kinder Morgan, U.B.C. and special guest Stephen Owen, Q.C., P.C.

Those unable to attend: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, BMO Bank of Montreal, CIBC, Community Futures Development Corporation of the Central Interior First Nations, Imperial Metals, Spectra Energy and Telus.

#### **NOTES TO THE READER**

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Feather gift made by Irene Gilbert  
and presented by her to Al Richmond