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## FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

The month of February was fairly uneventful, but there are nevertheless a few items to report.

### 1. BUSINESS PLAN

Our business plan with its accompanying request for a 5-year funding commitment which had already been approved by the Band Councils of Canim Lake, Canoe Creek and Williams Lake, was introduced to the Soda Creek Band Council by President Irene Gilbert and Secretary Graham Leslie on February 24<sup>th</sup>, and will be given further consideration by the Band Council following a Community Open House scheduled for March 12<sup>th</sup>. We are still awaiting a date to meet with the Band Council at Esket.

### 2. OUR BRIDGE BUILDING PROJECT

During early March we will proceed to review the estimate we earlier received from Celtic Engineering, with a view to incorporating into this project as much First Nations labour and equipment operation as possible. As soon as possible afterwards we plan to sit down with Daryl Taylor of Celtic Engineering to negotiate the final contract, having in mind that the bridge will be constructed during early May. We also look forward to planning a simple ceremony to mark completion of this mini project at which we will honour the many local businesses that contributed financially and – with *ArtsVest B.C.* and the *New Pathways to Gold Society* – are making it possible to build at this time.

### 3. THE OVERALL PROJECT

We still hope to approach the two senior levels of government for the major portion of the funds needed for construction, but will not be able to make a start unless and until we have secured the operational funding commitments from all five of our Bands.

In order to raise the amount that will be needed to commission our architects to carry out design development and the preparation of construction documents in the meantime, we are planning a session in Vancouver to which a handful of major corporations and private foundations will be invited in order to meet our architects and exhibit design consultant and to be briefed on the overall project. We had hoped to schedule this session for mid-March, but are now proposing a date in early April, soon after the Easter long weekend. We have already very gratefully received a contribution from CN, and remain hopeful that we will succeed in meeting this preliminary target of approximately \$156,000.

### 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](mailto:grahamleslie@shaw.ca)



