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FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER



Ground level project view

1. OUR DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PHASE

The meeting originally set for January 29th in order to receive a progress report from the architects, took place on February 29th. At this meeting the architects gave a detailed account of the status of their work that has incorporated the input of their structural, mechanical and electrical consultants. It was decided that the project can satisfactorily proceed without the input of a civil engineer, and that if additional funds can be secured in the near future, the work of this phase will be supplemented by a more detailed and thorough topographic survey of the site, by geotechnical work and by an update cost estimate. The architects' final report will be presented at a meeting set for March 30th.

Decisions tentatively made at the February 29th meeting include confirmation of our preference for a green roof following a discussion that alleviated concerns we had previously raised about its appropriateness in the South Cariboo climate; a request for the originally conceptualized building to be enlarged so as to provide more

quality space for storing artifacts; and our desire for the storage area be fully protected from fire damage via a combination of a firewall and a sprinkler system.

2. THE EARTHEN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS MONUMENT

Our application to the *Northern Development Initiative Trust* for the balance of the funding required for construction of the proposed monument was submitted in late February, and will be considered in the first instance by the Trust's Cariboo Chilcotin Lillooet Advisory Committee in mid March. We continue to expect to learn the outcome of that application as well as our earlier application to the *Department of Canadian Heritage* by late March or early April, and if successful, we plan to utilize the balance of 2016 in designing the monument and its related signage. That would enable us to carry out the construction of the monument in early 2017 and celebrate its grand opening on July 1, 2017.

3. TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

As many of you know, four of our five participating member Bands have been conducting negotiations collectively with Canada and British Columbia for a treaty for approximately 20 years. The Esketemc First Nation at Alkali Lake has carried on its treaty negotiations separately for all of that time. Negotiators for the four reached a tentative agreement in principle – stage 4 of a six-stage process – in 2015, and having decided to refer the agreement to their band members, did so during february. The agreement was ratified by three of the four communities, and a vote in the fourth community will be conducted in late April. A successful outcome of that vote will send the negotiations to the fifth stage aimed at achieving a final agreement. Anyone interested in learning more about the treaty negotiating process is referred to www.bctreaty.ca, the website of the B.C. Treaty Commssion.

NOTES TO THE READER

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