

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING UPDATE

BAND ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

Thank you for your patience as we have done our best to ensure programs have not been affected while working from the trailers. A great big thank you to the staff who have been optimistic and positive when it comes to working in these less-than-ideal circumstances.

As we said in previous updates additional funding was received to cover the cost the rental fees of the trailers for 18 months. It's hard to believe we are coming up on one year of working in the trailers already.

As the Community has said in the past and through the feasibility study the vision of the new Band Administration Building was clear. Prior to the fire we were working towards securing funding for this new Community Building and after the fire it was decided rather than take the insurance money and replace the office building as it was, we would set the insurance money aside and continue to work towards securing the additional funding to build the Community's vision. We have submitted a proposal and have made it past the first round. We should know by the end of October if we are successful or not. No matter what the outcome it will still be a minimum of two years before there is a permanent building the staff can move into. As we enter the final six months of our rental agreement with the trailers it was time to make a decision. We have agreed the Staff need a place that has washrooms and running water. We booked a time to meet with the Regional Director at Indigenous Services Canada and spoke to them about the Community's vision, the situation with the trailers etc.

It was determined we would use the cookhouse, move a vacant trailer to the lot at 130 Reservation Road and 48 Reservation Road as offices for the Staff. We received some funding from ISC to support this transition. Therefore, we are able to make these three places available for the staff without spending any of the insurance or program monies. This means programming will not be interrupted and the insurance money can remain set aside to be used towards the new build.

We are confident this is the best solution at this point.

Please note, to ensure we use the funding received to it's maximum potential for the transition of moving to better working spaces for the staff, the work being done will be done with inhouse staff; this means the housing department will be very busy with this work. We ask that you have patience with this department and only contact him directly with immediate needs. For less immediate needs please email him and he will be taking time to address housing concerns as time allows.

CULTURAL CENTER/P-12/MUIN SIPU LEARNING CENTER

Once again, we need to thank you the Community for your patience during this time. We are pleased to announce we have been approved for funding for a new school. However, it does come with a few difficulties. The funding we were approved for was the original cost to build the school as the vision determined by you the Band Members through the feasibility study; however, it was based on pre covid costs, therefore not quite enough to build the school via the original plans.

After much conversation with the architects and construction company (Dora Construction) we are working towards plans that will work within the budget approved for Bear River and still maintain the integrity of the Community's vision.

We have been working closely with the construction company and our goal is to break ground by the end of this year. It will be a couple of months before the final plans are complete, but once they are we will send out via Community Notice.

With an 18-to-24-month project completion date, this means there is an end in site for the Cultural Center to once again be used for Community use. It also means the children who have had to make adjustments for Covid and the Fire will finally receive a permanent and dedicated Educational Center.

It also means the Muin Sipu will receive their full space back to provide their programs. A big thank you to the staff there as they too have been shuffling program rooms around to accommodate the P-3 classroom.

Although it was suggested we not announce the potential build of a new school until we were ready to break ground due to the many moving parts that take time; we felt it was time to share this exciting news.

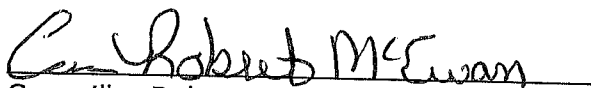
CONCLUSION

Please know it is never our intention to keep information from our Band Members and we will continue to work at being better communicators.

Sincerely,


Chief Carol Dee Potter


Councillor Fred Robar-Harlow


Councillor Robert McEwan


Councillor Carol Ann Potter