

Indigenous Tourism Project Update,

March 14, 2019

The two-year project started in September 2018 and was funded by the BC Rural Dividend Program in the amount of \$94,670. Shuswap Tourism, Community Futures Shuswap and STS Lakes Division each contributed \$5000 to the total budget of \$119,670, which also includes in-kind contributions from each of the four communities.

The mandate of the Indigenous Tourism Project is to complete six Deliverables, which include the following:

1. Cultural Sharing Guidelines
2. Indigenous Artisan Support
3. Increase Cultural Presence on the Traditional Territory
4. Assist Entrepreneurs in the Development of their Tourism Based Business
5. Tourism Industry Training for Interested Community Members
6. Develop and Deliver Indigenous Tourism Events

To date, Deliverable #1, Cultural Sharing Guidelines, is nearing completion. Frank Antoine (Indigenous Tourism Coordinator) and Shelley Witzky (Adams Lake) have been working closely with Community Elders to create a list of cultural elements, stories, places, legends, place names, and other cultural elements that can be shared within and outside of the community as a means of furthering Indigenous Tourism opportunities and a greater cultural presence on the Traditional Territory. As well, work is in progress to identify Artisans and Crafters and inventory their crafts and services.

The Steering Committee met on March 8th to identify individuals who have the necessary skills and community connections to fulfill other project Deliverables. The committee has now hired Bonnie Thomas (Neskonlith Indian Band) to complete Deliverable #2; Julie John (Little Shuswap Lake) has been hired to complete Deliverable #4 and; Donna Felix (Splatsin) has been hired to complete Deliverable #6. The remaining two Deliverables will be initiated at the appropriate time in the future, when the others are completed.

The project has been well supported within each of the four Secwepemc communities and momentum and enthusiasm has been building as we proceed. There is growing interest in the prospect of entrepreneurial training and starting businesses.

We are confident that our newly assembled Project Team will bring significant value to the project and the Deliverables will be achieved as anticipated.

Sincerely,

Rob Marshall
Steering committee Chair