

NO extra cash for Nelson Museum, Archives and Art Gallery Project

To the Editor,

I am writing on behalf of the Board and Staff of the Society in response to Darren Davidson's article *MAAG Turns to City for \$100,000 Extra Credit* (Jan. 18th issue). Your printed correction on page three of NDN's January 20th issue, which stated that no new taxpayer funds and no City liability was assumed through this Line of Credit was appreciated. The facts related to the Society's \$130,000 Line of Credit with the CIBC are quite clear. The Society is *not* receiving an additional \$100,000 credit from the City as stated in NDN's headline. On January 16, 2006, the City, through a Certified Resolution of Council, accepted the Society's direction to pay necessary funds from the City's annual operating grant to the Society directly to CIBC. In other words, the City would send to CIBC funds from the Society's annual operating budget to pay amounts due on the Line of Credit. The City would not be providing any additional grants to the Society and the City is not guaranteeing the Society's credit facility with CIBC.

The Society is acutely aware of its responsibility to the community to manage the renovation of the former City Hall with the utmost consideration for the bottom line. The ability to sign-off on all contracts now (thanks to the Line of Credit) will result in significant savings on material costs. Through prudent design changes and a renewed fundraising effort, all costs related to the project will be covered without tax payer funds. The Society is continuing to apply for substantial grant funds. The Olympic/Paralympic Live Sites grant, mentioned in the article, along with a BC Capital Gaming Grant, would bring substantial additional funding to the project. The Society has launched the "Shawn Lamb Archives" fundraising campaign to cover the costs of developing the archives and the turret, essentially what the Line of Credit was sought for, and is already 15% of the way to achieving its \$150,000 goal.

The successful transformation of Nelson's former City Hall into a purpose-built museum, art gallery and archives is absolutely critical to building trust with our stakeholders. I hope this letter and the printed correction will answer any questions your readers may have with respect to funding for the project. If not, I welcome your inquiries. Please give me a call at the museum (the old one!) anytime at 352-9813.

Sincerely,

Leah Best
Executive Director