

JEAN DUMONT

ON RESERVE COUNCILLOR

DEAR MEMBERS,

I would like to discuss a few topics that interest me in pursuing a role as On-Reserve Councillor for our Tse'khene of the McLeod Lake Indian Band.

As I believe in family and health, and residing on reserve today, I have discussed with the health department and we agree on and would like to start a program where we could procure a bus (12-16 passenger). With this we would not only take any aged band members to the pool in Mackenzie a couple days a week to participate in healthier socializing and working towards improving physical health, but to also access & participate in more already offered local day trip programs for our youth and elders.

I am working with my sister Deb, who is head of Culture & Language, as she and I have discussed opening up more than one local tradition trails our people used here in the past for gathering food and medicine as educational outings for our youth to participate in. McIntyre Lake has been a focal point to start a cultural camp I am scheduled to visit at the end of this week with Land Management Tania Solonas, Language and Culture Planner Deborah Prince, MLIB Family Therapist Chris Branigan who I work with as Dudes Club (Government funded program helping men who attended residential schools with improving mental & physical health) facilitator and a couple band members to hike the short entrance trail and not only discuss a plan on how we agree on what we want to achieve, but also how we can involve the youth and the elders to help break ground and finally start building this long awaited Culture Camp. To simplify and speed up this process, as a contractor in construction, I myself will build infrastructures needed and will ask as much help from our band members so they too can be a part of this ongoing project. Our goal is to run this as a Culture Camp for all to attend and participate in as an educational piece to look back into how our people lived and celebrated together



Delivering flower boxes, I built for the Elders center



Delivering lift of lumber to McLeod Lake



BBQ at Tsay Keh Dene Culture Camp Summer2019



Urn I built and gifted to one of our family members



My children making Pemmican



in past times. To not only bring back the use of local medicines available but participate as a group to go out to forage and gather such medicines & foods to make available to us and to those who are unable to participate. I really enjoy just giving.

In these last couple weeks, I have participated in helping our community members, some who are presently participating in a carpentry class, with delivering them dimensional 'rough sawn' lumber from our own sawmill. I have also agreed to help a handful of others with building their projects in our wood shop which range from small greenhouses, flower boxes, benches, coffee tables, hope chest... I have even been honored to gift a small urn I built for one of our Elder's to hold the ashes of their son.

I can only touch base on some of the achievements and the ongoing local programs I enjoy putting my time into because there is limited space made available in this campaign letter. For the off-reserve band members I am not reaching, I am asking you to feel free to ask any band members and any appointed Chief & Council members here today about my activities, big or small, in our community... and if you are still undecided, please find me on facebook and ask me any public questions you would like more information about. I will leave you with my phone number, and my personal email and I encourage you to please reach out to me anytime if you would like to have a conversation.

Respectfully,

Jean Dumont

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