



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stó:lō Community Futures Receives BC Rural Dividend Fund Award

March 31st, 2017 – Chilliwack, BC: John Martin, MLA for Chilliwack, today announced at the Stó:lō Resource Centre, in Chilliwack, that Stó:lō Community Futures (SCF) was recently awarded a Province of BC contribution under the BC Rural Dividend Fund, for the implementation of key components of the **STÓ:LŌ STRATEGIC VISION**.

Mr. Martin indicated, “that SCF, recognized for its advancement in Indigenous economic and business development, will be implementing strategies to continue to develop the growing Indigenous business cluster in S’ólh Téméxw, the Stó:lō Traditional Territory; establish ongoing consultation and engagement with the Stó:lō and Indigenous Communities; and, continue to achieve its strong partnerships that support the implementation of the **STÓ:LŌ STRATEGIC VISION**.”

Chief Colin Pennier, Chief of Sq’éwlets, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of SCF, thanked the Province and John Martin, for the support of the Province in awarding these very valued funds to SCF. Chief Pennier indicated, “that SCF, was receiving significant recognition for its award-winning **STÓ:LŌ STRATEGIC VISION**, which is focused upon developing a major Indigenous business center in the Stó:lō Traditional Territory.

In addition, Chief Pennier was pleased to announce that prominent local Indigenous leader, Louis De Jaeger, has been retained by SCF to oversee the implementation of the Programs. In introducing Mr. De Jaeger, Chief Pennier indicated, “that the former Bravo restaurant owner, is the current President of the Stó:lō Business Association. Louis De Jaeger will hold the position of Community Resource Manager with SCF, in implementing the BC Rural Dividend Fund.” Chief Pennier further stated, “that Mr. De Jaeger’s past businesses accolades include Outstanding Achievement for Aboriginal Business of the Year for BC, 2015 Chamber of Commerce Aboriginal Business of the Year, and the 2016 Al McCracken Award for the Community Futures Provincial Volunteer of the Year. Louis has extensive experience as being the current Treasurer of the SCF Board, Vice-President of the Downtown Business Improvement Association (BIA), and has been involved with front-line work Chilliwack Healthier Community Agencies.” Mr. De Jaeger will continue to pursue his Masters of Business Administration (MBA) in Aboriginal Leadership at Simon Fraser University.



Mr. De Jaeger stated, “I am certainly excited to be involved in working with the Indigenous communities and advance the **STÓ:LŌ STRATEGIC VISION**, and would certainly like to thank the Provincial Government for supporting this valuable work.”

SCF is also sponsoring a major event for the Indigenous Community and local Indigenous businesses, which is the Stó:lō Business Summit, to be held at Tzeachten Community Hall on Thursday, April 20th, 2017.

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