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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I hope that this process of developing a new method of keeping the Board of Directors informed on a monthly basis would prove beneficial. I trust that if you have any questions/problems with any of the initiatives that you will contact me either immediately or you will present your questions to the Executive Committee at the up-coming Board meeting. This will assure a more time-efficient meeting. Should you have advise or information on any of these subjects that you will read in the "informers", your personal newsletters, please do not hesitate to contact me; I would appreciate any input you might have.

SPRING PLANNING CONVENTION:

There was a "Spring Planning Conference" organized by the Outaouais Alliance Association in Hull, Quebec on February 18th, 19th and 20th. The objective of this conference was to discuss our many common concerns and priorities that exist and to come up with common solutions. Four representatives from Alliance Quebec and the Regional Associations attended this conference. The Coasters representatives were: Wilson Evans, Cornella Maurice, Sylvia Roberts and Dwayne Keats. Dwayne Keats was chosen to attend, (with the Board members approval - the members that were interested in participating in this conference were contacted on the matter), because he had to meet with representatives of the Heritage College to gather information on Distant Education. Furthermore, it saved the Coasters Association funding with regards to purchasing a ticket to travel to Hull, all expenses were covered by Outaouais Alliance. A wrap-up report of the conference is available at the office upon request.

MEETING WITH MINISTER OF CANADIAN HERITAGE:

Wilson Evans and the Presidents of the Regional Association and Alliance Quebec meet with the Minister on Friday, February 18th, before the commencement of the "Spring Planning Conference", to discuss funding cuts, long term planning, new initiatives - partnerships, etc. It was a very successful meeting, the Minister was very attentive, concerned and appeared sympathetic to our needs. Wilson will give you a more detailed report of the meeting at the up-coming Board meeting in Harrington.

ALLIANCE QUEBEC & REGIONAL ASSOCIATION'S MEETING:

The Presidents and Executive Directors meet on Friday, February 18th as well. A portion of the meeting was to prepare the Presidents for the meeting with Mr. Michel Dupuy, Minister of Canadian Heritage. Subjects such as the joint project, Quebec Connect, Program & Developmental funding was discussed. This group meets at least four times a year to discuss, (provincial wide), our goals and priorities and most of all our concerns. We walk through a full agenda each time we meet, sharing information and attempting to help one another come up with suitable solutions to some of our ever-existing problems.

MEETING WITH M.P., MR. BERNARD ST. LAURENT:

Mrs. Sylvia Roberts. Coasters Office Co-ordinator, and representative from various groups attended a meeting with our M.P. in St. Paul's River on February 28th. Some of the topics of discussion were:

- UIC - the required weeks to qualify for the benefits.
- Transportation - an ever lasting problem that we seem to encounter at every turning point.
- Municipality infrastructure - make a file with other local committees and their needs and present it, also work with the municipality de Blanc Sablon.
- Designated area, route 138 was discussed.
- CCQ cards - the problems that a local person faces due to not having a card.
- Mr. Laurent is on a committee in Ottawa dealing with the fisheries, he will be collecting data from the fishermen. It is a possibility that a fisherman will travel to Ottawa for a meeting.

CSBCN INFORMATION:

The CSBCN is organizing activities for the International year of the family. In Lourdes, a forum reuniting people from Old Fort to Blanc Sablon will be held on March 6th. In St. Augustine, people can answer a questionnaire on the family and the results will be broadcasted during a radio talk show. In Chevery as in La Tabatiere and Mutton Bay, groups have already met to reflect and identify some activities and actions. Following these activities of reflection, more activities will be organized with and by the population of the village from Kegaska to Blanc Sablon. The soul purpose of this is finding yourself within the family and having fun together. More so, activities must be implemented to offer a support for a better family life.

You are asked when visiting your local clinic to bring your medical and hospital card.

The CSBCN offers two visits per year by Dr. Ide Dube for ophthalmology services. As for optometry, regular eye exams, they have an agreement with Opto-Vision whom they have granted access to their premises in order to see their clients.

(A document explaining optician, ophthalmologist and optometrist is available at the office upon request)

If your child is born in the province of Quebec: keep the pink and green copies of the

SP-1 from which is given to you at the hospital. Complete the "Declaration of Birth" form attached to the SP-1 form and forward it with the two copies of the SP-1 form to the enclosed address before the thirtieth day after the birth of your child.

If your child is born in Newfoundland: pick up a form at your clinic or at the CSBCN, request the proof of birth which should be given to you at the hospital and that should be signed by the doctor. Complete the "Declaration of Birth" form and forward it with the proof of birth at the enclosed address. For more information, you can call the toll-free-line at 1-800-567-3900.

CONFERENCE CALLS:

A conference call was held on Sunday, February 13th by the Executive Committee to make decisions with regards to the general operations of the office. (minutes enclosed)

A conference call was held on Monday, February 14th with officials of Canadian Heritage, the Executive Directors of Alliance Quebec and the Regional Associations to discuss what areas the Canadian Heritage should be targeting and on what subjects. We shared ideas, our concerns towards cuts in funding and we discussed to how we could approach the bureaucrats on the concerns we raised.

A conference call was held on Tuesday, February 15th by the Executive Directors of alliance Quebec and the Regional Associations to plan the agenda for our Presidents to meet with the Minister of Canadian Heritage.

TRANS COTE INC.

Their new plane "King Air A-100" starting flying the Coast on February 13th. They are offering a 50% rebate on regular fares if you travel towards Sept-Iles on Thursdays, Fridays or Sundays and toward Blanc Sablon on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays. You will be eligible to win a watch value at \$100 which will be given at the end of each month. Reservations service 24 hours per day and 7 days a week - call 1-800-463-0910.

FORUM FOR YOUNG CANADIANS:

Jeremy Roberston from La Tabatiere asked us to sponsor him on his trip to Ottawa. A letter was written to Jeremy explaining that our policy permits us to sponsor just one person per Lower North Shore. Furthermore, Jeremy was chosen by La Tabatiere school to participate in the contest that we sponsored prior to his request. As I am sure you are aware, Colin Shattler from St. Augustine was the lucky winner. A copy of this letter is available upon request.

PROJECTS:

A project for a computer was submitted to Mr. Denis Perron M.N.A., on February 9th. Hoping to receive a positive response this year.

The developmental funding project was submitted on February 11th to Canadian Heritage requesting funds for this year's newspaper and a handbook for the employees. The developmental projects are to give awareness of the Association and/or assist us in operating more effectively and efficiently; but most of all to create data that will help us expedite our heavy workload at the office.

The project for the Handbook for the Board of Directors was extended an extra week. Priscilla Griffin is working on this project; she needed an extra week to complete it and the Executive granted the request. She will be doing a few weeks of volunteer to place additional information in the handbook that will be of interest to you. It was at her decision to do so voluntarily, not the Executives. However, the additional information that she is working on is the articles that we expressed in this year's volume that we would place in our up-coming newspaper. Therefore, she is killing two birds with one stone, all past and present information for you and articles for our next newspaper that will be also checked by Denis Murray, Founding President, upon completion.

She also did an excellent job on researching all the data for the constitution to the date it was adopted - March/92 at the AGM in Lourdes. This task was a job in itself. Upon completion, it will be reviewed by Tony Roberts, our constitution expert.

CRD MEETINGS:

A meeting was held in Lourdes by the CRD to discuss the sectorial tables that will be held between February 19th and March 27th in Sept-Iles, Baie Comeau or Port Cartier. Charles Hart was our representative at the meeting in Lourdes. From the results of the meeting, the Coasters were to participate in the Tourism, Education, Communication and Youth Workshops. We had to select candidates to attend all of these meetings and inform the CRD of who will be attending on our behalf. The plane transportation would be paid by the CRD but the other expenses were to be paid by our Association. The meetings were to be held in French, they could not afford to hire a translator. Attendance selected for these meetings, etc. mentioned in the conference call minutes. (a calendar of the meeting dates, location, etc. of the CRD meetings is available at the office upon request)

A letter was written to the CRD requesting that they provide translation services or hold these meetings in both languages.

ANGLOPHONE PARTICIPATION:

There was a working group formed on anglophone participation in the federal public service of Quebec, consisting of the Executive Directors of the Associations and alliance Quebec. It is been formed since 1990, but we were not invited to sit on this committee. Through a squealer, I found out about it and inquired. I was told that we were not invited because it cost too much for us to travel to Montreal to attend the meeting. I advised that it did not cost much to mail the information and for me to fax our concerns prior to the meeting. We are now a member on this committee and we have received all the information from 1990 to date. The next will be held in Montreal on March 31st., we cannot afford to send a representative but we could present our concerns by fax or telephone. Anyone wanting a copy of this information, please feel free to request it.

H. & S.S. PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE:

Minutes of the fifth meeting of the Provincial Committee on Health and Social Services of Alliance Quebec held on Friday, January 14th is available at the office upon request.

RESIGNATION:

Vicki Percival, Executive Director of Alliance Quebec has resigned. She is no longer working with A.Q. and is without a job at the moment.

Nathalie Zinger , Executive Director of Q.L.F. has resigned. She is now working with World Wildlife Funds.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Assisted the CBC TV crew in trying to organize Wayne Ronstadt's trip to the Coast.

Groundwork for the Annual General Meeting.

Preparation of raffle tickets on the Coast and a gymsuit sale. The results will be published in the March edition of the INFORMER.

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY:

Chris Gascon, a former employee of QLF, is doing the final touches on the community directory. He keeps in close contact with Wilson and myself; Wilson checks all of his work and I perform the duties that he requests (ie: gathering of missing information, etc.). The book should be ready to launch at our A.G.M.

NEWSPAPER REDUCTION:

Blandine Fequet will be writing a letter to Imprimerie Inc. to request a reduction in the price of the Newspaper, due to the printing errors made by their company.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY:

Names submitted on behalf of the Coasters Association to attend the workshop in Lourdes on the International Year of the Family were:

- ▶ Tony Roberts, Vice-President
- ▶ Cornella Maurice, Executive Director
- ▶ Sylvia Roberts, Office Co-ordinator
- ▶ Lenora Keats, Office & Youth Project Secretary
- ▶ Dwayne Keats, Youth Project Manager

**A BIG THANKS TO ALL OF YOU
FOR ALL YOU DO AND ALL YOU ARE!!**

Cornella Maurice

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Executive Director

/CM

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