

STAFF LETTER - Joseph (JJ) Fellers

*Our Staff Letter this month is from Joseph (JJ) Fellers, our
Vice President of Professional Services*



I grew up in a small northern Yukon town, graduated with a class of less than a dozen kids. Growing up, many of us wanted to escape the small-town life, get out and experience all the things we didn't have in our tiny corner of the world. Now at almost 50, living near a small city, I often miss that small secluded town, having mother nature, family and friends, so close all the time. I even sometimes miss the small-town politics that only people who have lived in a small town

could understand and appreciate.

I see that after 50 years nothing has changed, working with small Indigenous communities across the country I constantly see so many struggle with this problem, the youth wanting to leave, to escape, to go out into the world and experience more. Young families wanting to live elsewhere for work, so many small, remote communities, slowly shrinking in population, fighting every day to try to find ways to bring their people back to the community. Many have had major losses of nearby industry, leaving their communities with a lack of local jobs. The community of Good Hope Lake, BC was decimated in the early '90s when the Cassiar mine closed down and the small town lost one of the only sources of work in the area. The Nation's community has gone from over 100 people with an operating school to now less than 50 people, the school is gone, and the largest source of local employment is working for the Nation. It is so important for these communities to find opportunities to create jobs, improve their communities, and build more houses, in the hopes they can bring home as many as possible.

Working with SN for the past two years I have been so fortunate to work with many client communities. Working together with them as a team developing ideas, finding funding, and in some cases helping with implementing projects. After visiting and seeing some of the stories of our Indigenous communities it has hit me so hard how important and imperative it is that we all need to pull together and help these small forgotten communities. In the past two years, I have watched our company grow from mostly focusing on proposal writing to now being able to help out with so much more. We always put our why first, to do things that matter and to help boost our client's capacity and abilities.

Joseph Fellers

Welcome Jessica, Davis, & Grace!



Jessica Woskett is a Community Analyst based out of Prince George, B.C. Jessica obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Geography from the University of Northern British Columbia with a minor in Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management. Her educational and professional background have given her a broad understanding of the socio-economic, cultural, and environmental issues that we face today. She is dedicated and passionate about diversity and equity in community-based projects. Jessica spends her free time on the lakes kayaking or in the mountains hiking and skiing.

Davis Legree is a Carleton University graduate who holds a Bachelor of Public Affairs and Policy Management degree with a specialization in communication policy. Prior to joining Strategies North, Davis worked for the Senate of Canada, and also as a freelance writer. He is passionate about resource and energy politics, which has led him to pursue a Master's degree in Environmental Studies from Queen's University. In his free time, Davis enjoys writing, playing golf, and watching the Boston Bruins.



Grace Smith is from Milton, Ontario, but has lived all across Canada. Currently studying at Carleton University Grace will be earning her Bachelor's of Public Affairs and Policy Management with a concentration in Human Development and Rights in May 2022. Grace's multidisciplinary studies and varied interests from policy to theatre allows her to bring a varied and unique approach to proposal writing and her work here at Strategies North. When she has the time Grace can be found tearing through fantasy books, biking, or singing very off-key

We're very much looking forward to bringing your expertise to the Strategies North team!

June is National Indigenous History Month

We are pleased to announce the successful acquisition of funding for the Semiahmoo First Nation and their ancestor repatriation project. Semiahmoo will be one of twenty-five Nations to receive funding from the BC Museums Association's 2020 Repatriation Grants. This funding will aid in the cultural heritage initiative to repatriate the remains of over 200 ancestors that have been held unlawfully by external institutions for decades. Semiahmoo will use these funds to give their ancestors the



respect they deserve through traditional burial ceremony connected to their traditional territory and cultural heritage. National Indigenous History Month is a time to celebrate the wonders of the diversity of Indigenous culture, and acknowledge the past and current harms being wrought upon communities. This June we hope to share more stories like Semiahmoo's repatriation program to celebrate the resiliency and beauty of our client's culture. Check out our Facebook page, LinkedIn, or Instagram for more stories celebrating National Indigenous History Month all June long.

Photo courtesy of <https://www.semiahmoofirstnation.ca/gallery>

DIGITAL EVENTS THIS MONTH

The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund will be presenting four events featuring Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers, artists, and allies from communities coast to coast this month. You can watch these events live on their Facebook and YouTube page; just make sure to register on their website.

Pet of the Month

A new furry friend has joined us in our main office... meet Orzo! As you can see, Orzo spends his days looking cute, chewing on toys, and sleeping in the office. He loves being carried around by his humans like a baby instead of walking. This little pup is going to be so loved and so spoiled by his new family!



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE - ROUND 2 OPENS!

This fund is to support communities as they create and adapt public spaces, and programming and services for public spaces to respond to ongoing needs arising from COVID-19 over the next two years. Intended for developing:

- 1) Safe and Vibrant Spaces
- 2) Improved Mobility Projects
- 3) Digital Solutions Projects

Funding Amount:

- between \$5,000 to \$250,000!

Some Eligible Applicants:

- Indigenous governing bodies;
- Band Councils
- First Nation, Inuit, or Metis authorities
- Tribal Councils
- more!, just ask us!

Requirements of Application:

Project rationale, community engagement, outcomes, and project implementation and readiness!

Submission Deadline: June 25th, 2021

KEY DATES

June 15th: Agricultural Climate Solutions Program - AgCan deadline to apply

June 18th: Employment and Social Development Canada - CCI deadline to apply

June 20th: Summer Solstice 2021

June 20th: Father's Day

June 21st: National Indigenous Peoples Day - recognizing and celebrating the cultures and contributions of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Indigenous peoples of Canada

June 25th: Healthy Communities Initiative - CDC Deadline to Apply