



Cowichan Tribes

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NEWS RELEASE

F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

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Cowichan Tribes and Bingo Society Propose New Gaming Centre

DUNCAN, BC – Cowichan Tribes and the Duncan Dabbers Bingo Society (DDBS) got the nod from their respective organizations to enter into formal discussions to build a new gaming centre in Duncan.

DDBS's current Service Agreement is up for renewal in January 2005, and as part of the agreement renewal BC Lottery Corporation expects updated facilities and increased market share. Cowichan Tribes would be the developer.

“We see this an opportunity to provide state-of-the art gaming to the Cowichan Region, which will increase revenues for local charities,” said David Clark, President of DDBS. “We are looking forward to taking the next step, which is to commission a comprehensive feasibility study,” continued Clark.

DDBS is the owner and operator of the sole gaming agreement in the Cowichan Region. DDBS membership is comprised of 66 local charitable organizations, and all net profits are divided among the member organizations.

The proposed facility will be located at the corner of the Island Highway and Cowichan Way, next to the Quw'utsun' Cultural Centre, on reserve land. “One of our long-term objectives as a Tribe is self-sufficiency,” said Chief Harvey Alphonse. “Not only would the lease and property tax income provide a core revenue stream, but there's opportunity here for job creation and training, general contracting and construction contracts, and future retail or commercial opportunities.”

Once the feasibility study is received, a business plan will be put together with public consultation as a key part of the planning process. BCLC will have the final say on the proposed project. Barring any unforeseen difficulties, both parties hope to see a new gaming centre within two years.

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