

## Public Presentation – Terrace Campus

May 9<sup>th</sup> 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

This session will also be available via livestream: <http://www.unbc.ca/northwest/livestream>

# From Clearing Trees to Modern-day Treaty Negotiations: Kitselas First Nations Governance over the Last Half Century

**Presenter: Mel Bevan (Past Kitselas Chief Councillor, Band Manager, and Chief Negotiator)**

This public address by UNBC Northwest Elder in Residence, Mel Bevan, provides an overview of more than 50 years of evolution in Kitselas First Nations governance. The presentation begins with a review of the Indian Act and how it has shaped all subsequent efforts at First Nations governance and self-government. The history of the establishment of the Kitselas reserve(s) is discussed along with a summary of the changes in the community(s). Mel will provide an overview of his participation from more than a half-century of involvement in first nation's governance including roles as a councillor, chief councillor, band manager and inter-nation liaison. The goals, process and changing nature of treaty negotiations will be discussed with a particular emphasis on the lessons for contemporary First Nations governance. Finally, a summary of the role of the modern-day councillor will follow including input from current councillors; as Mel's daughter Sue expands on the next-generation of Kitselas governance.

