

"INDIAN GROUPS ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DO WHAT THEY NEED TO DO TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF DEPENDENCE AND CREATE AN ECONOMY."



DANCES WITH DEPENDENCY

Dependence of Aboriginal Communities

CALVIN HELIN, A MEMBER OF THE TSIMSHIAN NATION FROM THE NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMUNITY OF LAX KWALAAMS (Port Simpson) has written a book looking at the growing First Nations community dependence on government money.

Dances with Dependency looks at the upcoming collision of the First Nations dependency on a declining tax base. "Indian groups are going to have to do what they need to do to break the cycle of dependence and create an economy, and the first step is to take ownership of the problem," says Calvin.

First Nations communities currently receive transfer payments of up to \$18 billion annually for 650,000 Inuit and Indian Canadians. The fastest growing segment of the Canadian population is the Aboriginal demographic.

The book explains that the current system is unsustainable given that baby boomers set to retire will reduce their contribution to the tax base and increase their dependency on services such as health care. "Everyone knows it, but no one is willing to say anything" he says. "Everyone's attention is focused on government sources of money rather than on what the rest of the world relies on to survive – business opportunities!"

Mr. Helin is a practicing lawyer, President of the Native Investment and Trade

Association, former Vice President of the National Aboriginal Business Association, and Founding Director of newly formed B.C. Oil & Gas Association.

He was chosen as one of the top 40 Under 40 entrepreneurs in British Columbia by Vancouver based news publication, Business in Vancouver and selected for Top 40 Under 40 national award sponsored by The Financial Post Magazine and other major Canadian corporations.

Dances with Dependency is available through Orca Spirit Publishing (www.spiritorca.com)

