

Best-selling author comes to Valley

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Author Calvin Helin signs his book *Dances with Dependency*. Helin will be speaking in Smithers on Dec. 14 at the Della Herman theatre.
Smithers/Interior News

It's not often that Smithers and Oprah have the same guest speakers, but that's exactly what will happen later this month.

Best-selling author Calvin Helin will be in Smithers and Moricetown on December 14 to discuss his book *Dances with Dependency*.

Helin is a Tsimshian lawyer and businessman who was born in the community of Lax Kwalaams (Port Simpson). He is the son of the hereditary chief of the Royal House of Gitlan and the matron of the Royal House of Gitachngeek.

His book discusses the history of First Nations people in Canada and sets out a plan to improve the third-world conditions that many First Nations reserves struggle with.

Birdy Markert, the district principal for aboriginal student services, was one of the people instrumental to bringing Helin to the Valley.

She first saw him speak at a school superintendents meeting in Prince George.

"I thought he was quite provocative in his message. What he has to say is quite important," Markert said.

She also said she thought it was important to have a role model in the community for young aboriginals to look up to. Helin, with as a successful lawyer and businessman fits the ticket.

Helin has been booked to appear on the Oprah Show in the near future.

In the meantime, Smithereens can catch him from 3:30-5:30 p.m on Dec. 14 at the Della Herman Theatre.