

The Northern **VIEW**

Aboriginal advancement focus of local's book

By Shaun Thomas
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Local author Calvin Helin was in town for two days last week to meet North Coast residents and sign copies of his latest book entitled "Dances with Dependency: Indigenous Success through Self Reliance," a book which he says looks at some important issues affecting Aboriginal people in Canada.

"What I've tried to do is to, as honestly as possible, paint a picture of where we are at because it's really hard to understand what to do about it if you don't know where you are at and it is really hard to understand where you are at when you are part of it because it is very hard to get perspective on it. What I've tried to do is paint that picture with the sole purpose of trying to help Aboriginal people move forward and out of the dependency mindset and welfare trap," he said.

Citing issues like the incarceration rate, suicide rate and child welfare rate amongst Aboriginal communities, Helin said there is only one way to address these issues.

"At the end of the day if Aboriginal people want to move forward, no matter what the cause of the problem is, we have to take ownership of the problem."

"Expecting the Federal Government or relying on the Federal Government to sort out the problems has just been a total waste of resources and is creating more misery in the Aboriginal community than just about anything," he added.

For more on the book, visit

www.spiritorca.com