

# SEMINAR SERIES

Communication, Health, and Social  
and Cultural Well-Being

## Seminar 39: Implementing an Indigenous Language Proficiency / Fluency Degree Framework – Opportunities and Challenges for the Interior Salishan Region

*This multidisciplinary seminar series aims to create a forum centered in Jawun. It is for researchers at CQUniversity, across Queensland and all over the world, as a forum to share their research findings and establish potential synergies, leading to joint grant applications, and partnerships that endeavour to advance knowledge in various disciplines.*

### Date and Time

**Wednesday, 27 March 2024**

3:00pm – 5:00pm QLD time  
Light refreshments provided.

### Locations

Room **3.06**, CQUniversity Cairns Campus  
Corner Abbott Street and Shields Street  
Room **2.14**, CQUniversity Townsville Campus  
Building 1, 538 Flinders St West  
Or via [Zoom](#) Passcode: 515070

### Abstract

Over the past several years a coalition of Indigenous organizations, Indigenous post-secondary institutes, and public post-secondary institutes in BC have been working to frame a provincial approach to foster Indigenous language training in the post-secondary sector. Despite the tremendous linguistic variation in the province, a framework has been adopted, and development of laddered certificates, diplomas, and degrees is underway. A partnership of institutions in the Southern Interior of BC, led by language champions from the Interior Salishan language community has thus far put into place three related bachelor's degrees. Built through processes fundamentally shaped by Indigenous Protocols and supported by allied institutions, these degrees exemplify a proactive approach to reconciliation.



After discussing the history of this effort, the presentation outlines the challenges and opportunities partners face in their collective efforts to create an eco-system capable of supporting language revitalization throughout the Interior Salishan region.



### Speaker

**Dr. Mike Evans** (PhD McMaster 1996). Dr. Mike is a visiting professor with Jawun from the University of British Columbia in Canada.

### BIO

I was trained first as an economic anthropologist working on issues of development in the small island nations of the Pacific. The bulk of my research over the past 25 years, however, has been participatory - primarily with Indigenous communities (in particular the Metis and Urban Aboriginal communities in British Columbia but also with the Syilx Nation on whose territory I presently reside). For the last 15 years I have been in administrative roles, and been able to help with several developments, primarily in the research and graduate studies space, including the redevelopment of UBC Okanagan's Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies program and the launch of a new Indigenous Knowledges Theme in that program. Most recently much of my time has been spent working collaboratively with Syilx Okanagan and other colleagues on a variety of projects, including the development of a provincial Indigenous Language Fluency Degree Framework and the Interior Salishan iterations of these degrees. In all my work I bring a concern for place, the public good, diversity and equity, and an abiding commitment to ensuring the public post-secondary sector's constructive participation in the process of Indigenous – Settler reconciliation.

### RSVP

JRC Administration via email  
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