

NEWS RELEASE

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The conspiracy of silence about native peoples that has prevailed among Canadian historians for a century and a half will be the focus of the tenth event in the current Cariboo College series of free public lectures. Sociologist Neil Morrison will speak on "Canadian History: an Indian Perspective" in the College Board Room on Friday evening March 18, beginning at 7:30.

"Since the days of the fur trade," Morrison observes, "the Indians have been largely ignored in historical studies. They've just drifted out of the national consciousness. It's time to realize that they have played and are playing an increasingly important role in the development of modern Canada."

As an example of the negative effects of this neglect on both the Indians and other Canadians, Morrison cites the misunderstanding about land claims in British Columbia.

"Most non-Indians have never been made aware," he points out, "that land treaties are virtually non-existent in this province."

Morrison, a native of Vancouver whose academic research has emphasized studies of native peoples, is an honours graduate in sociology from the University of British Columbia. He received his master's degree from Carleton University.

Born in Vancouver and raised in Nelson, he spent several years as a radio broadcaster, working in Australia as well as in Vancouver and Kamloops, before joining the Cariboo faculty at the College's inception in 1970.

In November 1981 he was elected to represent the North Thompson area on the Board of Trustees of School District #24, and serves on the district's Indian Education Committee. He is a resident of Little Fort.

The lecture, like others in the 1982-83 series, will be followed by a question period. Morrison will be introduced by Economics instructor Peter Peters.

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