



"Our environment is our future"

## RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

### Chief Roland Willson

of the  
West Moberly First Nations



Friday  
Feb. 11 2011

3:30 - 4:30  
pm

Lecture  
Theatre  
7 - 150

### "I Want to Eat Caribou Before I Die": A Community's Struggle to Protect the Last 11 Caribou from a Coal Mine

Our Elders passed a traditional law to protect caribou as a result of the impacts from the W.A.C. Bennett hydroelectric dam and the foreseeable impacts from industrial activities. Since this conservation measure was implemented our hunters have refrained from harvesting caribou in accordance to the Dunne-za traditional seasonal round. Nearly a half-century later, Canada passed a similar law: the Species at Risk Act. It defined caribou as a "threatened" species, which means a recovery plan is to be implemented no later than 2007.

In this presentation, I will discuss the significance of caribou to my people, the Provincial Government of British Columbia's approach to allow mining, oil & gas, and windfarms to destroy critical habitat and its refusal to implement a recovery plan, and my community's legal battle to try and protect the species from extinction.