



**Seminar
Event**

**Local Government Institute
School of Public Administration
University of Victoria**

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Location: David Strong Building
Room C118
University of Victoria

What is Indigenous Governance?

By Professor Taiaiake Alfred

Please register for this FREE
workshop ON-LINE at:

<http://web.uvic.ca/lgi/events.htm>

If you have any questions, please
contact Belle Young at:

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(250)721-8056

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Native American Political Traditions: Native American community life today is framed by two value systems that are fundamentally opposed. One, still rooted in traditional teachings, structures social and cultural relations; the other, imposed by the colonial state, structures politics. This disunity is the fundamental cause of factionalism in Native communities, and it contributes significantly to the alienation that plagues them. What those who seek to understand and remedy the problems that flow from it often don't realize is that this separation was deliberate. Without a good understanding of history, it is difficult to grasp how intense the European effort to destroy indigenous nations has been, how strongly Native people have resisted, and how much we have recently recovered. Not to recognize that the ongoing crisis of our communities is fuelled by continuing efforts to prevent us from using the power of our traditional teachings is to be blind to the state's persistent intent to maintain the colonial oppression of the first nations of this land.

Professor Taiaiake Alfred, Indigenous Peoples Research Chair at the University of Victoria, is the founding Director of the University of Victoria's Indigenous Governance Programs. He has lectured at more than 30 universities and colleges in North America, Europe, and Australia. His publications include: *Heeding the Voices of Our Ancestors* (Oxford, 1995), a history of Mohawk militancy and nationalism, and *Peace, Power, Righteousness* (Oxford, 1999), an essay on indigenous ethics and leadership. He is also an award-winning journalist known for his incisive social and political commentary. Since 1987, he has worked as an advisor and strategist for the Mohawk Nation and indigenous governments across North America