



Seminar  
Event

## School of Public Administration Seminar

**Tuesday, March 12, 2002**

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

**Location: Human & Social Development  
Building, Rm A373 (Tom Shoyama  
Meeting Room)  
University of Victoria**

# On the Right of Local Self Government

**By: Dr. Warren Magnusson**

This seminar is free and open to the public. Please register by contacting:

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In a series of decisions about aboriginal rights, the Supreme Court of Canada has adopted a more flexible interpretation of the doctrine of sovereignty. As a result, the Court has been able to come some distance in recognizing aboriginal rights. No such flexibility has been shown in recent decisions about the individual and community rights in relation to municipal government.

The purpose of Professor Magnusson's paper is two-fold: first, to explore the anxieties that lead the Court, the legislative and executive authorities, and most of the leading commentators on municipal government to adhere to a traditional conception of the relation between the sovereign state and local authorities; and second, to articulate (if only tentatively) the principles that might be embodied in a justiciable right of local self-government.

Hence the pervasive anxiety in modern states about the "loss of sovereignty" will be discussed at length in relation to foreign powers and multi-national corporations, but also, and particularly in relation to local governments that might lay claim to inherent authority.

Warren Magnusson is Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science at the University of Victoria. He is a political theorist with an interest in local government, urban politics, social movements, and globalization. His books include: *City Politics in Canada* (1983), edited with Andrew Sancton; *The Search for Political Space: Globalization, Social Movements, and the Urban Political Experience* (1996); and *A Political Space: Reading the Global through Clayquot Sound* (forthcoming), edited with Karena Shaw.