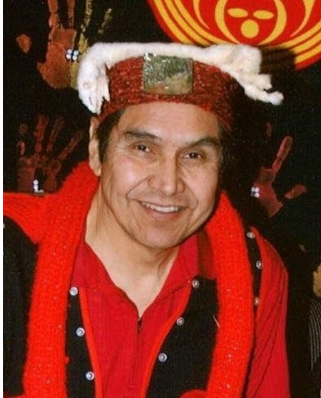


# Alex Nelson



Alex was born on October 31, 1946 and is a proud member of the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw First Nations of Kingcome Inlet, British Columbia. As a Cedar Man (Hamatsa) with a hereditary Chief's position through his father Henry Nelson, he remains strongly connected to his family, community and culture.

Alex holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Leisure Studies Administration from the University of Victoria. He is also one of the founders of the Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Association of B.C. and has won numerous community and sports awards for his services.

As a residential school survivor Alex has taken his stories of survival and resilience to the schools in the Sooke and Greater Victoria School Districts, to UVIC and to government. His presentations touch the heart and soul of students in a way that promotes understanding and builds bridges as he continues his healing journey.

As one Reynolds Secondary student stated in a note to Alex:

*"Due to the sad nature of residential schools, I anticipated that your presentation would be full of anger and resentment, but instead you turned it into an opportunity for growth and reconciliation. Despite your experiences you were able to convey a spirit of strength an admirable trait that showed that this experience couldn't break you."*

A middle school student said:

*"Thank you for telling us about your experience in residential school, we are sorry you had to be away from your family and had to suffer punishments but we are glad you had some free time to play soccer."*

Alex continues to be of service to the community in any way he can. He facilitates workshops, key note presentations when requested. He worked as a Resident Elder for Surrounded By Cedar Children and Family Services and this connection to children in care can be linked to his experiences in residential school as a former child in care of the system.

To schedule Alex to come into your classroom to speak on Residential Schools and tell his story, please complete the request form attached and send it to the ANED office via fax or email.

**Please note:** Alex can only schedule one classroom visit per day and he also uses a power point presentation so a laptop and screen is greatly appreciated.