

Be Strong Like Two People: Learning from Elders



**Gavin Renwick,
Professor and Canada Chair of Design,
University of Alberta**

**Thursday 22 August 2013
6pm – 9pm (programme 6.15pm-8.30pm)
Ayr Auld Kirk Hall (Upper Hall)**

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Ayr Converses



Gavin Renwick, Professor and Canada Chair of Design at the University of Alberta, has spent more than ten years working with the Tlicho first nation people in the North West Territories of Canada on their land claim to the Canadian Government. His role has been as a cultural intermediary assisting with the articulation of the understanding of land and inhabitation of the Tlicho.

He has regularly reported on key aspects of the thinking of the Elders, particularly around their relationships with young people.

In his presentation, Gavin Renwick will explore the Elders' understanding of the pressures on the young. First, the need to be "strong like two people", which is a reference to the need for young people to be both strong in their own culture and strong in western culture. The second is the need to be "modern in your own language", which clearly sets out one way to address the first challenge.

Gavin Renwick is originally from Motherwell. He was brought up among the last generation of Lanarkshire people who worked in coal, iron



and steel. He has realised projects across Europe, as well as in Turkey and Canada.

The presentation/conversation will be chaired by Chris Fremantle, ayr converses co-founder.

Following the presentation and Q&A, there will be the opportunity to converse with a glass of wine or soft drink. A small collection will be made towards venue hire and refreshments.