Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Arts

of

PATRICK BRADLEY

BA (University of Northern British Columbia, 2013)

““Average mail…Lots of routine”: Arthur Wellsley Vowell and the Administration Of Indian Affairs in British Columbia 1889-1910”

Department of History

Wednesday, December 23, 2015
10:00 A.M.
Clearihue Building
Room B215

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. John Lutz, Department of History, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Peter Cook, Department of History, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Hamar Foster, Faculty of Law, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. John Taylor, Department of Biology, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Abstract

Federal Indian Superintendent Arthur W. Vowell was a long serving and well established administrator, who managed the Canadian government’s administration of Aboriginal people in British Columbia for over 20 years between 1889 and 1910. This thesis seeks to challenge the idea that the Department of Indian Affairs was a cohesive, effective institution. In doing so, it assesses how bureaucracy operated as a distinct form of power in British Columbia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Drawing on department correspondence, and other evidence derived from a study of the life of Indian superintendent Arthur Vowell, this study seeks to show that A.W. Vowell’s management of the Indian department played a significant role in the ‘peaceful subordination’ of Aboriginal people in British Columbia. This research also seeks to place Vowell’s role as an individual within the larger colonial project of Indian administration in B.C.