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

of

LESLEY FRIEDMANN

BEd (University of Victoria, 1996)

“International Human Rights Education: An evaluation of treaty compliance in British Columbia’s Kindergarten to Grade 12 Social Studies school curriculum”

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

Tuesday, April 26, 2016
10:00am
MacLaurin Building
Room A326

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Graham McDonough, Department of Curriculum & Instruction, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Helen Raptis, Department of Curriculum & Instruction, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Avigail Eisenberg, Department of Political Science, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Stephen Evans, Department of Biochemistry, UVic

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

In this thesis I probe into British Columbia’s (BC) Kindergarten to Grade 12 Social Studies curriculum to determine how adequately it adheres to Canada’s international treaty obligations. I give particular attention to the duties regarding dissemination of information about, through, and for human rights principles and norms that are contained within the United Nations (UN) 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (Convention) and the UN 2011 Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training (DHRET). To accomplish this, I first develop a compliance assessment tool that is based on international human rights legal standards. This tool is then used in a normative inquiry into BC’s current Social Studies curriculum to assess the extent to which its educational aim, and its conception of the learner, learning process, learning environment, teacher’s role, and evaluation satisfies the international human rights education law requirements that are articulated in the treaties that Canada has ratified. The knowledge that is generated from this investigation is of value to BC’s Ministry of Education and members of the public who are involved in BC’s curriculum development and revision, because it creates a benchmark from which to “take more active measures to systematically disseminate and promote” (UN, 2012, paragraph 25) knowledge about international human rights in BC’s schools.