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

of

NICOLE GARDNER

BA (University of Victoria, 1997)

“Trends in Participation Rates of Home Educating in B.C., 1993 to 2013”

Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies

Monday, August 17, 2015
1:00pm
MacLaurin Building
Room A341

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. John Anderson, Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Todd Milford, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Graham McDonough, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Lara Lauzon, School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
When a family in British Columbia (B.C.) chooses to educate their child at home, they have two legal options: enrollment in a Distributed Learning (DL) program or registration under Section 12 (S12) of the School Act as a homeschooler. To date, there has been very little published on trends in participation rates and growth rates with regards to home educating options in B.C. The current study employs a quantitative archival design to document trends in DL and S12 across age, gender and location. Home educating is on the rise in B.C. over the past twenty years, largely due to an increase in enrollment in DL programs while registration under S12 has declined. Distinct patterns in age, gender and location between S12 and DL are apparent in the data. Growth rates among age categories in DL mirror declines in S12. While there are slightly more males than females in the total school-aged population in B.C., within DL programs there are more females than males at the secondary level. In 1993/1994 rural children were more likely to be educated at home than urban children in B.C.; today the opposite is true. Further research is needed to ascertain why these trends persist.