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

of

FLORENCE MISURKA

BN (University of Manitoba, 2002)
BA (University of Manitoba, 1991)

“Community Health Care Aides Providing Palliative Care and their Experiences of Support”

School of Nursing

Thursday, October 6, 2016
9:30am
Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health – R-HUT
Room 103a

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Kelli Stajduhar, School of Nursing, University of Victoria (Co-Supervisor)
Dr. Anne Bruce, School of Nursing, UVic (Co-Supervisor)

External Examiner:
Dr. Andre Smith, Department of Sociology, UVic

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

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

Community health care aides form the largest group of home health care providers in Canada. There is an increasing trend in Canada towards more home deaths. Home Care and the health care aides that provide this care are an integral component of this movement. An Interpretive Descriptive study was undertaken to identify community health care aides’ experiences of support as they provide end-of-life care to those dying at home. Three themes emerged from the data: 1) Striving to provide the best care, 2) Connections, and 3) Loss. Findings suggest that relationships form an important part of the health care aides work and are intertwined throughout all the themes identified in this study. Health care aides in the community often feel undervalued and unsupported by the larger health care team. Comparatively little research has been undertaken to examine the unique experiences of the community health care aides providing end-of-life care, compared to research on the health care aides providing end-of-life care in the long-term care setting and to research on nurses providing end-of-life care in the community. Community health care aides have unique challenges and characteristics and this study was undertaken to address this gap.