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

of

KĀSHĀ, JULIE ANNE MORRIS

BEd (Simon Fraser University, 1998)

“K’asba’e T’oh: Sustaining the Intergenerational Transmission of Tāltān”

Department of Indigenous Education

Tuesday, June 27, 2017
3:00 p.m.
MacLaurin Building
Room D111

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Onowa McIvor, Department of Indigenous Education, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Leslie Saxon, Department of Linguistics, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Jodi Streelasky, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Rustom Bhiladvala, Department of Mechanical Engineering, UVic

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

The Tahltan language is endangered and at a critical stage because there are fewer than 30 fluent speakers. The Tahltan Nation is working to change this by creating many different opportunities for language learning, focusing on programming, documentation, and professional development and training. One way our language is being revitalized is through immersion programming for young children. With ‘Tahltan Voiceability’ as the overarching methodology, this study reports on the language nest model as an immersion method of Indigenous language revitalization in Tahltan communities in northern British Columbia. Parents, language mentors and administrators shared their perspectives and experiences regarding how K’asba’e T’oh (the Dease Lake Language Nest) began in Tätt’ah (Dease Lake), how things are progressing, and what motivated and continues to motivate people to be involved. Through an analysis of these conversations, I share collected stories and report on emerging themes. With this immersion setting, there is hope that this program will create speakers, inspire others to learn our language, and be part of increasing the proficiency of language learners, thereby moving our language out of endangered status. This study is part of a growing body of research in Canada studying language nests to promote the intergenerational transmission of Indigenous languages.