Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Social Work
of
LENORA STARR
BSW (Thompson Rivers University, 1997)
“First Nations Experiences with Adoption and Reunification: A Family and Community Process”
School of Social Work

Wednesday, July 27, 2016
10:00AM
David Turpin Building
Room A136

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Robina Thomas, School of Social Work, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Jeannine Carriere, School of Social Work, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Sandrina de Finney, School of Child and Youth Care, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Nilanjana Roy, Department of Economics, UVic

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

This thesis, or storytelling journey, examines the stories of four First Nations adults who survived cross-cultural adoption into non-First Nations families and reunification with their birth families and/or communities. The methodology utilized for this research is Storytelling. The purpose and passion for storytelling in First Nations traditions are acknowledged and explained, helping to outline why storytelling methodology is a logical choice to honour and respect the storytellers’ messages included in this thesis. An overview of the traditional First Nations family system and the impacts of genocidal government policies on such traditional family systems are explicated, specifically in relation to First Nations children adopted out of community in a cross cultural manner.

-Tákem nsnek’wnúk’w7a (All my relations)