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

of

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BSW (University of Victoria, 2010)

“I see big gaps’: The Community Volunteer Supplement and Disability Income Policy in British Columbia”

School of Public Health and Social Policy

Thursday, August 11, 2016
2:00PM
Human and Social Development Building
Room B202

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Michael Prince, School of Public Health and Social Policy, University of Victoria (Co-Supervisor)
Dr. Katherine Teghtsoonian, School of Public Health and Social Policy, UVic (Co-Supervisor)

External Examiner:
Dr. Bruce Wallace, School of Social Work, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. James Nahachewsky, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, UVic

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

This research explores a disability community’s success in drawing public attention to an unlawful development of policy, that community’s efforts in resistance, and the experiences of those individuals in relation to subsequent neoliberal silencing. Specifically, this study examines the experiences of people on disability assistance in British Columbia who successfully appealed the Ministry’s unjust denial of the Community Volunteer Supplement (CVS) and documents participants’ reactions to the government’s later repeal of the CVS program. Five individuals were interviewed about their experiences in resisting the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation’s practice to wait list CVS applicants, a benefit they were legislatively entitled to receive. Of the participants interviewed, three identified as women and two identified as men. Utilizing a post-structural feminist theory, influenced by critical disability theory and Foucault, a key finding of this research is that participants’ encounters accessing the CVS is connected to their experiences of poverty, resistance, and community.

Keywords: disability policy, Community Volunteer Supplement (CVS), appeals, British Columbia, resistance