



**University  
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

Notice of the Final Oral Examination  
for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

of

**XEMFOLTW NICHOLAS CLAXTON**

MA (University of Victoria, 2003)

BSc (University of Victoria, 2000)

**“To Fish as Formerly: A Resurgent Journey back to the Saanich Reef  
Net Fishery”**

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

Friday, July 31, 2015

5:30PM

Gymnasium

Gathering Strength Facility

Tsawout First Nation

7728 Tetayut Road

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Jason Price, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, University of Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. Michael Emme, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, UVic (Member)

Dr. M. Honore France-Rodriguez, Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies,  
UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Michael Marker, Faculty of Education, University of British Columbia

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Robina Thomas, School of Social Work, UVic

## Abstract

According to W̱SÁNEĆ oral history, the W̱SÁNEĆ people have lived on their territorial homelands back to the time of creation. The W̱SÁNEĆ way of life has been passed on to each succeeding generation through an educational way, centered in large part on the W̱SÁNEĆ Reef Net Fishery. This fishing practice formed the backbone of W̱SÁNEĆ culture and society. Despite being protected by the Douglas Treaty of 1852, over the next 163 years of colonization, the knowledge, ceremony, practice, and educational way of the SXOLE (Reef Net) was nearly lost. Using a framework for Indigenous Resurgence, this dissertātiō or path focuses on the revitalization and restoration of the SXOLE. This resurgent path described herein tells the story of how the “researcher” pulled together the disappearing knowledge of the SXOLE, reinvigorated cross border cooperation between the W̱SÁNEĆ and their Lummi relatives, and how after being named ØWENÁLYEN, or the Reef Net Captain through ceremony was able to coordinate the community based creation and fishing of the first SXOLE on Canadian waters in 100 years. This resurgent path is just the beginning of a long and endless journey back to a future where the W̱SÁNEĆ people can be a proud people of the SXOLE once again.