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

of

BRADLEY A. CLEMENTS

BA (University of Victoria, 2015)

“Displaying Truth and Reconciliation: Experiences of Engagement between Alberni Indian Residential School Survivors and Museum Professionals Curating the Canadian History Hall”

Department of Anthropology

Thursday, August 30, 2018
2:30pm
Clearihue Building
Room B007

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Andrea Walsh, Department of Anthropology, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Michael Asch, Department of Anthropology, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Michelle McGeough, Department of Art History, Visual Art and Theory, University of British Columbia

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Iain Higgins, Department of English, UVic

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

The re-curated Canadian History Hall (CHH) opened at the Canadian Museum of History (CMH) in Gatineau, Québec, on July 1st, 2017, becoming the first Canadian national narrative to exhibit the history, experiences, and aftermath of Canada’s genocidal Indian Residential School (IRS) system. Through interviews and participant observation, this case study considers experiences of CHH curatorial engagements between Alberni IRS Survivors and museum professionals. Their experiences illustrate practical challenges, structural limitations, and complimentary interests of Western museums and Indigenous source communities attempting to collaboratively curate difficult history. Despite having limited capacities for indigenization or decolonization, this thesis demonstrates that museums like the CMH can be complicated but beneficial partners for some Indigenous source communities and their anti-colonial engagements with Canadian society.