



**University  
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

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

of

**KAREN EFFORD**

BA (Carleton University, 2011)

**“Tell me one thing’: Exploring the role of parent/educators in the  
homeschool environment”**

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

1:00 p.m.

MacLaurin Building

Room A341

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Monica Prendergast, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, University of Victoria (Supervisor)  
Dr. Jason Price, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Darlene Clover, Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Andrew Marton, Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

## **Abstract**

Homeschooling can provide the opportunity for an inspiring educational journey facilitated by a parent/educator. Stepping away from social norms, and fostering strong relationships, influence and supports the negotiation of this dual role in the alternative learning environment. The line between parent and educator is often blurred and challenging to tease apart as parent/educators strive to support the unique learning interests and goals of their students. In this thesis I consider the negotiation between these roles by examining the lived experience of homeschool parent/educators through the themes of relationships, normalization and 'We are teachers'. British Columbia, Canada (BC) is the context and will influence analysis, findings and recommendations. The new BC Ministry of Education's "transformational" focus is used to support the position taken in this thesis that parent/educators are teachers in their own right. The author's unique experience as a homeschool parent/educator herself provides the opportunity for a greater understanding into this under researched pedagogy.