



University  
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

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

of

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BEd (University of British Columbia, 2009)  
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**“Reconnecting with Body and Space: How Two Teachers in British  
Columbia are Reconstructing the Traditional Classroom to Engage  
Students’ Bodies in Learning”**

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018  
1:00 p.m.  
Clearihue Building  
Room B007

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Kathy Sanford, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, University of Victoria (Supervisor)  
Dr. Todd Milford, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Lara Lauzon, School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Catherine Caws, Department of French, UVic

Dr. Stephen Evans, Acting Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

## **Abstract**

Embodied learning is a holistic approach to education that takes into consideration the inclusion of the body in learning, students' awareness of self, and their connection with place and those around them. The current study sought to uncover ways in which elementary school teachers in British Columbia were adapting classroom spaces to engage student bodies in learning process. Two teachers from different regions of the province were interviewed about their experiences with embodied learning. Physical hurdles such as the restrictive nature of the space within which they worked, and systemic hurdles such as student / teacher expectations about teaching and learning experiences and relationships, assessment and pedagogy practices, and a lack of clarity about the purpose of education were identified as challenges that teachers hoping to embrace embodied learning would have to overcome.