



**University
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

**Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Science**

of

CHRISTOPHER GLEASON

“Dän K’e: Resiliency in Male Southern Tutchone Youth”

School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education

Friday, April 20th, 2018

9:00 a.m.

McKinnon Building

Room 0025

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Patti-Jean Naylor, School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, University of Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. Paul Whitinui, School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, UVic (Member)

Dr. Nevin Harper, School of Child and Youth Care, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. A.A. Milne, Faculty of Children’s Literature, Simon Fraser University

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Nichole Fairbrother, Department of Psychology, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

It is commonly understood that loss of lands, forced relocation, residential schools as well as, an over-representation of Indigenous peoples in the child welfare and justice system due to the past 150 years of colonization has adversely affected the mental health and wellbeing of Indigenous peoples across Canada. As a result, the link between intergenerational trauma, colonization, and its impact on Indigenous peoples suggests that conducting research in this area may reveal several experiences, reflections and insights about the resilience of Indigenous peoples. Research about the inclusion of tribal Indigenous practices and land-based practices have been found to support positive mental health and build resilience. This study explored the concept of resilience as it pertained to the lived experiences of different generations of Southern Tutchone males living within a Yukon community. This study employed a case study approach underpinned by an Indigenous heuristic framework and informed by Indigenous ways of doing, knowing and being. Semi-structured interviews were used with Elders and youth to consider the relationship between land-based practices (LBP) and how to build resilient Southern Tutchone men. This study highlighted the importance of land as a teacher, and the need for Southern Tutchone male youth to reconnect with Elders on the land and to learn what it means to thrive as a Southern Tutchone man. Moreover, resilience was seen through a community lens rather than an individual one by these Southern Tutchone peoples.