



**University
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

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

of

EZEKIEL GOW

BSc (University of Alberta, 2014)

**“The Potato and the Nail: Reading the Fort Langley Post Journals and
Europeanization on the Banks of the Fraser River”**

Department of History

Friday, July 14, 2017
10:00 A.M.
Clearihue Building
Room C316

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Elizabeth Vibert, Department of History, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. John Lutz, Department of History, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Lisa Surridge, Department of English, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Rebecca Grant, School of Business, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

This thesis examines through a micro-historical lens the establishment of the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Langley and its early period (1827-1830) covered by the surviving post journals. Through a close reading and analysis of the journal entries I will argue that the establishment of Fort Langley was part of a process of Europeanization, which was expressed through the physical construction, the labour of the Langley contingent, and the ways that the H.B.C. servants interacted with new and existing foodways. I will argue that although the journal entries provide only a limited window into the historical reality of Fort Langley's early years that they are a useful source for understanding complex social, class, and racial relationships that permeated life and labour at Fort Langley. I demonstrate that even the crafting of a nail, or the felling of a tree, is a critical part of contextualizing the complex processes which would eventually form a distinctly European system of control on the banks of the Fraser River.