



**University
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

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

of

Kim Lyster

Studies in Policy and Practice Program

1981

Simon Fraser University

BEd

“The Space Between Us: An Inquiry into Belonging”

Thursday, March 26, 2015

3:00PM

Human & Social Development Building
Room B247

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Susan Boyd, Faculty of Human & Social Development, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Michael Prince, Faculty of Human & Social Development, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Donna Jeffery, School of Social Work, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Stephen Tax, Peter B. Gustavson School of Business, UVic

A copy of the thesis will be available for viewing in the General Office of the Studies in Policy & Practice Program at least one week prior to the oral examination.

Dr. David Capson
Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

This thesis explores the topic of belonging: both the sense and experience of it as well as the relationship to individual and collective well-being. Through in-depth interviews with five leaders and advocates in the social justice community, I explore their perspectives on the topic, significant influences, the power of the experience, and the relationship between inclusion and belonging. Further, the capacity for belonging to influence and impact social issues such as marginalization, discrimination, and poverty are explored. Methods for fostering belonging are also considered with a view to suggesting recommendations for promoting a lens of belonging as a means for renewing a commitment to the beloved community.