Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

of

MARY SMITH

MScN (York University, 2011)
BScN (McMaster University, 2002)

“The Living Stories of Chronic Kidney Disease for First Nations People: Weaving the Sweet Grass and Porcupine Quill Birch Box into a Methodology”

School of Nursing

Thursday, April 19\textsuperscript{th}, 2018
10:00 a.m.
First Peoples House
Ceremonial Hall

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Carol McDonald, School of Nursing, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Anne Bruce, School of Nursing, UVic (Member)
Dr. Jacquie Green, School of Social Work, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Margaret Kovach, Department of Educational Foundations, University of Saskatchewan

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Steve Perlman, Department of Biology, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
The thunderstorm encroaches, the smoky raven like clouds floats over my spirit. This writing takes place at a time of mourning, a deep and lonesome sadness for family relations who have passed over the last few years, many having died of kidney disease. Yet I cannot escape this feeling that has filled the silent spaces and the deeper meanings that lie behind spoken words. These are the words of my relations, the words that fill these empty pages, the words of an enduring past and present. As I begin, I wonder how will I shape these passages into an articulation that may bring an illumination of all of what has happened over the last few months since the inception and then ethics approval of this work. So here I shall offer an understanding of the background that brought this study forwards. I will recount the progression of thought that brought forth the methodology. Like water that flows and is fluid, this writing has become realized to be ever changing, boundless and repelling conventionality. It is not just a story about living with kidney disease, this is a passage that motions and travels through history making interconnections amidst the broader social, political and contextually traditional and creative ways of being. Through the methodology of the sweet grass porcupine quill box, living stories came forth within the context of a First Nations community. Sharing circles involving ten participants conveyed the living stories of kidney disease that illumined the significance of Indigenous Knowledge, relationality, cultural safety and equitable access.