



**University  
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

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

of

**GENEVIEVE STONEBRIDGE**

BA (University of Victoria, 2010)

**“You Matter: Retrospectively Exploring the Needs of Adolescents who  
Had a Sibling with Cancer”**

Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies

Friday, April 17, 2015

10:00am

MacLaurin Building

Room D107

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Susan Tasker, Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, University of  
Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. Diana Nicholson, Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Michael Hayes, School of Public Health and Social Policy, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Lisa Surridge, Department of English, UVic

## **Abstract**

Previous research has started the discussion about the impact of unmet needs on the psychosocial adjustment of well-siblings of children and youth diagnosed with cancer. The purpose of this qualitative study was to retrospectively explore the needs of adolescents who had a brother or sister, who was diagnosed with, treated for and who lived through cancer. The findings and knowledge mobilization project from this study will extend the literature and will also bring information to counsellors, social workers, doctors, nurses, cancer support agencies, parents, family members, friends, teachers, and—importantly—to well-siblings themselves. Narrative data were collected from 7 adult sisters who reflected on their adolescent-aged experience of being the well-sibling of a sister (n=4) or brother (n=3) who was diagnosed with and treated for cancer. Data were analyzed using thematic analysis and 7 need-based themes identified from the data are reported. Further research is recommended, and implications from the present study are discussed.