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

of

MARGARET ERASMUS

BA (1987)
BEd (2000)

“Goyatì K’aàt’ìì ats’edee, Gokee K’aàt’ìì ats’edee:
Healing Our Languages, Healing Ourselves: Now is the time”

Department of Indigenous Education

Monday, April 15, 2019
10:00am
First Peoples House
Room 160

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Leslie Saxon, Department of Linguistics, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Carmen Rodriguez de France, Department of Indigenous Education, UVic (Member)

External Examiners:
Dr. Melvatha Chee, Department of Linguistics, University of Alberta

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Luke Carson, Department of English, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Abstract

This study investigates key components for effective Indigenous adult language learning and resulting health and wellness benefits following a Dene research paradigm with Grounded Theory applications. Eight colleagues in the Master’s of Indigenous Language Revitalization (MILR) program at the University of Victoria participated in open ended discussions on their experiences in learning their Indigenous languages as adults.

These Indigenous adults reclaiming their ancestral languages report experiencing benefits related to health and overall well-being. Physical fitness and healthy weight loss, emotional healing and a greater sense of identity all surfaced for my colleagues while working towards or achieving fluency in their languages. The main methods of successful language learning used were the Master-Apprentice Program, Total Physical Response and Accelerated Second Language Acquisition. Tips for learning the languages are included.