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

of

PAMELA FRASER

BA (University of Victoria, 2018)

“« La violence des hommes me fait horreur » :
la représentation de la tuerie de l’École polytechnique
dans le théâtre canadien”

Department of French

Tuesday, April 28, 2020
1:00 P.M.
Remote Defence

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Sarah Harvey, Department of French, University of Victoria (Co-Supervisor)
Dr. Pierre-Luc Landry, Department of French, UVic (Co-Supervisor)

External Examiner:
Dr. Julianne Pidduck, Department of French, Université de Montréal

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Pascal Courty, Department of Economics, UVic

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

This thesis examines the representation of the Polytechnique massacre in Canadian theatre. Utilizing a corpus of four Canadian plays, this study analyzes how trauma, feminism and commemoration intertwine in theatrical representations of this event. The findings demonstrate that the ways in which we represent the Polytechnique massacre are not neutral. They underscore our understandings and our beliefs relative to this event. In particular, this study demonstrates that in these plays, male characters talk more often and for longer than female characters. In addition, it analyzes how the recurrent topic of the “crisis of masculinity” is portrayed within this corpus. This study aims to participate in the constant reinterpretation of history, in order to question the narratives that have been passed down to us about the Polytechnique Massacre.