



**University
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

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

of

CHARLIE GORDON

BA (University of Victoria, 2014)

**“Environmentalism in an Age of Reconciliation:
Exploring a new context of Indigenous-ENGO Relationships”**

School of Environmental Studies

Monday, October 29, 2018
10:00 A.M.
Clearihue Building
Room B017

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. James Rowe, School of Environmental Studies, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Jeff Corntassel, Indigenous Governance Program, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:

Ms. Shannon Daub, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, British Columbia

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Laura Arbour, Division of Medical Sciences, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

As Canada's courts increasingly recognize and redefine the scope of Aboriginal title and rights in the country, alliances between Indigenous communities and environmental groups have increasingly held a central role in the fight to stop fossil fuel infrastructure projects. Recognizing the importance of relationships between ENGOs and Indigenous peoples to environmental campaigns in Canada, and the need to include land-politics into the national conversation of reconciliation, this research project aims to investigate the role of reconciliation efforts in environmental campaigns in BC. Indigenous-ENGO relationships offer important opportunities to learn how actions and language of reconciliation are (or are not) being expressed in environmental campaigns, and to learn how ENGOs are approaching their work with Indigenous communities in an era of reconciliation. Using two campaigns as my case studies I explore these topics by interviewing ENGO staff and Indigenous peoples working collaboratively on the Site C Dam campaign in the Peace River region of Treaty 8 in northeast BC, and the Pacific Northwest liquid natural gas (LNG) terminal project in the Skeena River watershed region in the traditional territories of the Tsimshian, Gitksan, and Wet'suwet'en nations of northwest BC. Informed by Indigenous and anti-colonial research methodologies, a principle of *relational accountability* is used to center relationships with land as a foundation for reconciliation, and for recommendations on how Indigenous-ENGO relationships can be improved.