



University  
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

Notice of the Final Oral Examination  
for the Degree of Master of Social Work

of

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BSW (University of Victoria, 2011)

**“An Inquiry into the Stories of Indigenous Fathers and Their Path to  
Fatherhood: A Narrative Analysis Conducted with Kwakwaka’wakw  
Fathers”**

School of Social Work

Thursday, November 21, 2019

10:00 A.M.

Mungo Martin House

Thunderbird Park

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Jeannine Carriere, School of Social Work, University of Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. Robina Thomas, School of Social Work, UVic (Member)

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Dr. Jeff Corntassel, Centre for Indigenous Research and Community-Led Engagement, UVic

## Abstract

The purpose of this thesis is to contribute to the other works that have been done in the area of Fatherhood in hopes to cause a shift in child welfare practice. Moving child welfare away from mother-centrism and towards equitable parent involvement. It is my hope that this piece encourages social workers to strive for the inclusion of Fathers in their daily practice and to hold themselves to a high level of accountability in regards to the Ministry of Children and Family Development's (MCFD) goal of supporting all children and youth in British Columbia to live in safe, healthy, and nurturing families. (MCFD, February 2018) This thesis is a qualitative study which was approached using a Story Telling methodology to answer the question "What reflections do Kwakwaka'wakw Fathers have when asked about their journey of coming into Fatherhood?". Three conversations were held with Kwakwaka'wakw Fathers to listen to their stories of their experiences along their paths of Fatherhood. Thematic analysis was used to highlight commonalities within each of the Father's stories. These themes were used to look at the various challenges that Kwakwaka'wakw Fathers face today and to create recommendations for social workers when their files were involving Kwakwaka'wakw Fathers. Through the support of a literature review, this thesis concludes with looking at what a Kwakwaka'wakw Father is and makes recommendations for change for the future work between frontline social workers at MCFD and our Kwakwaka'wakw Fathers.

**Keywords:** Kwakwaka'wakw, Fatherhood, Protective Factors, Child Welfare