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

of

KAZ MacKENZIE

BA (University of Victoria, 1996)

“Integrating Fluid, Responsive, and Embodied Ethics: Unsettling the Praxis of White Settler CYC Practitioners”

School of Child and Youth Care

Wednesday, September 4, 2019
9:30 A.M.
Clearihue Building
Room B021

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Sandrina de Finney, School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Jennifer White, School of Child and Youth Care, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Vikki Reynolds, Master of Counselling Program, City University – Vancouver

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Patricia Mackenzie, School of Social Work, UVic

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

This thesis explores and seeks to unsettle the tenacity of white settler privilege in child and youth care (CYC). I first acknowledge the significant leadership of Indigenous and nonwhite activist-scholars to address the ongoing overrepresentation of Indigenous families across colonial systems in which CYC practitioners work. This qualitative study interrogates how white settler CYC practitioners approach issues of colonial and systemic racialized violence targeting Indigenous children, youth, families, and communities.

Experienced, politicized frontline practitioners working in the CYC field were invited to examine how they understand, name, reproduce, contest, and struggle with white settler privilege in their practice. My study findings are organized along four themes that attend to systemic issues and the difficulty of challenging dominant white norms and conventions in the CYC field: (1) working in colonial violence and racism; (2) white settler fragility; (3) power and privilege; and (4) troubling allyship in the CYC field. The findings explore the complex individual and collective ethical responsibilities of white settler CYC practitioners and formulate responsive, embodied ethics rooted in solidarity and an anticolonial, antiracist, intersectional praxis.