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

of

GINA MOWATT

BA (Vancouver Island University, 2015)

“A Brief History of 19th–20th Century Genocidal Indian Education in British Columbia and Oral History of Gitxsan Resistance and Resurgence”

Department of History

Wednesday, August 7, 2019
2:00 P.M.
Clearihue Building
Room B215

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Elizabeth Vibert, Department of History, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Peter Cook, Department of History, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Matt James, Department of Political Science, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Dan Russek, Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies, UVic

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

Indian Education, including but not limited to Indian Residential Schools and Indian Day schools, are one part of an ongoing system of elimination of Indigenous people in Canada. I argue that Indian Education in 19th – 20th century British Columbia controlled and operated by churches and state, intended to destroy Indigenous collectives, constituting genocide. I follow this analysis with a oral history of four Gitxsan elders who experienced Indian Education in different forms. These interviews reveal the impact on Indian Education on self, family, community and nation. Most importantly, the elders express their vision for Gitxsan people to know who they are, to heal and to thrive in their homelands.