



University
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

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

of

BRIANNA WALDMAN

BA (University of Victoria, 2006)

**“A Qualitative Study into what Success Looks like in Sport for the
People of the Nlaka’pamux Territory Focusing on the Community
Perspective and Voice”**

School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education

Thursday, August 22, 2019

10:00 A.M.

Clearihue Building

Room B007

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Paul Whitinui, School of Exercise Science and Physical Health Education,
University of Victoria (Co-Supervisor)

Dr. John Meldrum, School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, UVic (Co-Supervisor)

External Examiner:

Dr. Tricia McGuire-Adams, Department of Health Sciences, University of Ottawa

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Deborah Thoun, School of Nursing, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

This study focused on understanding the current impacts colonization had in sport for the Indigenous Peoples of the Nlaka'pamux Territory and trying to determine the markers that are required to better support the process of achieving success in sport for these communities. This study adhered to principles of culturally appropriate methodologies using decolonization and Indigenous ways of researching. Six individuals from the Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly were part of a conversation circle that used open-ended questions and a conversational interviewing style. An interview guide was used, and the broader research questions looked at how the Citxw Nlaka'pamux Peoples define success in sport, through their reflections, insights and their experiences.

This study used thematic analysis to identify common markers in the data which were interesting to the overall research questions. The markers identified were zu?zu?scút (take courage, feel encouraged, courage), k'ém (support help along, access), ce?c?ex^w (showing happiness/love, enjoyment), relationship, nk' seytkn (family, community, cohort,), w?ex^w (Live, Be as you are, self-determination) and ʔəqmeýt (cultural teachings, values, and principals, identity).

This study postulates important knowledge for grassroots sports organizations through to provincial and federal sporting bodies in addressing the lack of Indigenous voice currently existing in the conventional sporting environment. For success to be achieved, there is need for at minimum two things: more grassroots local level sporting experiences as well as, an inclusion of an Indigenous voice in the planning stages for all levels of sport.