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

of

LETITIA POKIAK

BA (University of Alberta, 2003)

“Meaningful Consultation, Meaningful Participants and Meaning Making: Inuvialuit Perspectives on the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline and the Climate Crisis”

Department of Anthropology

Tuesday, September 8, 2020
1:00 P.M.
Remote Defence

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Brian Thom, Department of Anthropology, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Robert Hancock, Department of Anthropology, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Sarah Hunt, School of Environmental Studies, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Matthew Little, School of Public Health and Social Policy, UVic

Dr. Stephen Evans, Acting Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Abstract

This Inuvialuit ‘story’ revolves around the Inuvialuit uprising and resurgence against government and oil and gas encroachment, and the self determinant efforts to regain sovereignty of traditional territories. This ‘story’ also discusses how meaningful consultation made the Inuvialuit Final Agreement a reality, through which Inuvialuit land rights and freedoms were formally acknowledged and entrenched in the Canadian Constitution. Through meaningful consultation, Inuvialuit have become ‘meaningful participants’ in sustainable and future-making decisions of Inuvialuit nunangat (Inuvialuit lands) and waters, with respect to the Inuvialuit People and natural beings that Inuvialuit depend upon and maintain relationship with. As ‘meaningful participants’, Inuvialuit have the sovereign rights to “make meaning” and carve out a future as a sovereign nation within the country of Canada. This Inuvialuit ‘story’ is told with informal framework through which it decolonizes academia, while also highlighting Indigenous voice through an Indigenous lens and worldview. The government and industry are called upon to meaningfully consult with Indigenous Peoples who have not only inhabited Turtle Island for millennia, but who have inherent Indigenous rights and freedoms, as Indigenous embodiment, entanglement, temporality, future-making and well-being are intertwined with homelands.