



University  
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

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

of

**JEREMY BUDDENHAGEN**

BA (University of Victoria, 2011)

**“Tsemsyaenhl-get – Sixteen Battles in the Military History of the Nine Allied Tsimshian Tribes”**

Department of History

Monday, January 15, 2018

10:00 A.M.

Clearihue Building

Room B215

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. John Lutz, Department of History, University of Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. Peter Cook, Department of History, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Quentin Mackie, Department of Anthropology, Uvic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Stephen Ross, Department of English, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

## **Abstract**

There is a deeply held bias in Northwest Coast scholarly literature that suggests pre-contact Indigenous warfare was primarily made up of surprise 'raids' and ambushes that lacked strong leadership or organization. At the time of contact the Coast Tsimshian Nine Allied Tribes were one of the most powerful polities on the northern coast of what is now British Columbia. A thorough investigation into the pre-contact military history of the Nine Tribes using a combination of oral, archaeological and archival sources to explore battlefield maneuvers in sixteen separate battles will show that Nine Tribes' combat was well organized, had strong leadership, executed complex battlefield maneuvers in coordination with multiple forces, and utilized sophisticated strategies and tactics.