



University  
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

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

of

**JUSTIN FRITZ**

BA (University of Victoria, 2012)

**“The SWELSWÁLET of the WSÁNEĆ Nation:  
Narratives of a ‘Nation (Re)Building Process’ ”**

Department of Anthropology

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

10:00 A.M.

Cornett Building

Room A319

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Brian Thom, Department of Anthropology, University of Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. Lisa Mitchell, Department of Anthropology, UVic (Member)

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Dr. Nicholas Claxton, Department of Indigenous Education, UVic

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Amb. Derek Fraser, Department of Political Science, UVic

## Abstract

In this Master's thesis, I document my experience working with members of the ƵSÁNEĆ Nation in their efforts to revitalize the reef net fishery. As part of this research project, I interviewed ƵSÁNEĆ community members, and I created a digital map of reef net fishing locations (SWELSWÁLET). In each of these interviews, different ƵSÁNEĆ community members chose to frame reef net fishing differently, and they highlighted specific and unique “alternative political approaches” toward ƵSÁNEĆ cultural resurgence (Kew & Miller 1999:58-59). Despite these differences, each ƵSÁNEĆ community member that I interviewed believed that reef net fishing is something that “needs to be shared” (XA'LATE, pers. comm., June 14, 2016). In Chapter 1, I explore the variations in what specific ƵSÁNEĆ community members want shared. In Chapters 2 and 3, however, I examine the delicate cultural, political, and legal contexts that have made sharing a complicated process. In Chapter 2, I analyze how the BC Treaty Process (BCTP) has exacerbated conflicts among First Nations in British Columbia. Further, I discuss the impact that these conflicts have had on how the ƵSÁNEĆ Nation shares information with their intranational and international neighbours. In Chapter 3, I explore how my misaligned expectations of knowledge sharing in collaborative community-based research—as a white settler man—clashed with “the values and beliefs, practices and customs of [the ƵSÁNEĆ Nation]” (L. Smith 2012:15-16; Lassiter 2005). I also make recommendations for how settler researchers in the future should proceed with research projects in these contexts.