



University  
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

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

of

**JOSHUA A. HAZELBOWER**

BA (University of Victoria)

“Allies or Subjects? Shifting Canada-Indigenous Political Relations from  
Treaty Six to the Enfranchisement Act”

Interdisciplinary Studies

Monday, August 28, 2017

1:30 p.m.

Cornett Building

Room A319

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Michael Asch, Department of Anthropology, University of Victoria (Co-Supervisor)

Dr. Heidi Kiiwetinesik Stark, Department of Political Science, UVic (Co-Supervisor)

External Examiner:

Dr. Peter Cook, Department of History, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Penny Bryden, Department of History, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

## **Abstract**

This thesis considers the differences in the political relationship between Canada and Indigenous peoples as established in Treaty Six (1876) by Alexander Morris and that of the Indian Act (1876) as driven by David Laird and Enfranchisement Act (1885) by John A. Macdonald. Through using historical and contemporary sources related to Treaty Six, and House of Commons debates related to the two Acts, this thesis argues that the relationship as established in Canadian policy and conceived of by Canadian politicians of Treaty Six was akin to a “nation-to-nation” relationship, and that the Indian Act and Enfranchisement Act represent a turning away from this toward a less equitable relationship that placed Canada above Indigenous polities. This thesis also shows that within the Canadian political mainstream there was considerable dissent to this turning away from more equitable relationships, as shown by the continued opposition by politicians lesser-known today such as William Paterson.