

Presenter - Robinson, R., Weaving Indigenous Knowledge into the Academy: Promises and Challenges from the Perspective of Aboriginal Post-Secondary Institutes in Central and Northern British Columbia, B.C. 13th Annual Indigenous Graduate Student Symposium "Hands Back, Hands Forward: Indigenizing the Academy Through Relationships," Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC, March 7, 2015.

Presenter - Robinson, R. Weaving Indigenous Knowledge into the Academy: Promises and Challenges from the Perspective of Aboriginal Post-Secondary Institutes in Central and Northern British Columbia, B.C. 12th Annual Indigenous Graduate Student Symposium "Reciprocity in Our Communities - Mobilizing Indigenous Leadership and Knowledge," University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, March 22, 2014.

Presenter - George, A., Holyk, T. & Robinson, R. Closing the Gap: Understanding the Dimensions of University/Community Collaborations. International Conference on Circumpolar Health, Fairbanks, AK: August 12, 2012.

Poster Presentation - Robinson, R. Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Post-secondary Partnerships: Weaving Through the Benefits, Challenges, and the Role of Indigenous Knowledge. 10th Annual Indigenous Graduate Student Symposium, "Indigenous Intellectual Traditions: Re/stor(y)ing Time and Space," University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, March 23, 2012.



a place of mind

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

PROGRAMME

The Final Oral Examination
For the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
(Educational Studies)

RHEANNA ROBINSON

BA University of Northern British Columbia, 2001
MA University of Northern British Columbia, 2008

Friday, January 29, 2016 9:30 am
Boardroom, First Nations Longhouse
Latecomers will not be admitted

"Weaving Indigenous Knowledge into the Academy: Promises and Challenges from the Perspective of Three Aboriginal Post-Secondary Institutes in British Columbia"

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

Chair:

Dr. Samson Nashon (Curriculum Studies)

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Jo-ann Archibald, Research Supervisor (Educational Studies)

Dr. Antonia Mills (First Nations Studies, UNBC)

Dr. Anne George (Experimental Medicine)

University Examiners:

Dr. Charles Menzies (Anthropology)

Dr. André Mazawi (Educational Studies)

External Examiner:

Dr. Marie Battiste

Department of Educational Foundations

University of Saskatchewan

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

ABSTRACT

This study examines the promises and challenges of integrating Indigenous Knowledge (IK) into the academy from the perspectives of three Aboriginal Post-Secondary institutions in British Columbia. Using a case study method and an Indigenous and Western theoretical foundation, this research shares the successes, limitations, and the challenges the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT), the Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute (WWNI), and the former Cariboo Chilcotin Weekend University (CCWU) program face, or have faced, in the integration of IK. Also included in this study are perspectives from individuals from one mainstream, non-Aboriginal institution, the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC). Topics explored through the research are: a) challenges and benefits of integrating IK in three Aboriginal institutes and how the integration of IK at the academic level in Aboriginal institutions impacts and benefits students, staff, and the local community; b) the challenges and benefits of partnerships with mainstream institutes; and c) the formal policies and/or lack of formal policy for Aboriginal institutes. As a result of the research, emerging themes include: Elders have a core role in higher learning; the integration of IK at a post-secondary level impacts higher learning; Aboriginal Post-Secondary institutes have taken the lead in building partnerships with post-secondary institutes; and Aboriginal Post-Secondary Institutes demonstrate resiliency despite systemic challenges. To represent my position as a Métis scholar I present my findings through the framework of the Métis Sash.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Hometown: Smithers, BC, Canada

I am a member of the Métis Nation of British Columbia and a proud mom to my sons Sean (*Yagabax*) and James (*Jagabax*) who are also of Nisga'a' ancestry.

GRADUATE STUDIES

Field of Study: Indigenous education, Community-based research

AWARDS

2015	Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement (SAGE) Travel Award for the 13th Annual Indigenous Graduate Student Symposium (IGSS), UNBC
2014	Aboriginal PhD Award, UBC
2014	Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement (SAGE) Travel Award for the 12th Annual Indigenous Graduate Student Symposium (IGSS), UNBC
2012	Verna J. Kirkness (Ni-jing-jada) Award, UBC
2010	Harry E. Taylor Canadian Indigenous Prize in Education, UBC
2009	BC Aboriginal Student Award, Irving K. Barber Society, UBC
2009	Aboriginal Doctoral Fellowship, UBC
2009	Indigenous Student Scholarship, Faculty of Education, UBC
2008	Graduate Entrance Scholarship, UBC
2006	SSHRC Graduate Student Summer Research Award, UNBC
2006	Canfor Legacy First Nations Scholarship, UNBC
2004	Canfor Legacy First Nations Scholarship, UNBC
2004	Chan Sisters Memorial Bursary, UNBC
2003	Canfor Legacy First Nations Scholarship, UNBC
2002	Graduate Entrance Scholarship for Outstanding Academic Achievement, UNBC
2001	Graduate Entrance Scholarship for Outstanding Academic Achievement, UNBC

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Presenter - Robinson, R., Weaving Indigenous Knowledge into the Academy: Promises and Challenges from the Perspective of Aboriginal Post-Secondary Institutes in Central and Northern British Columbia. 12th Annual Conference and AGM, Indigenous Adult Higher Learning Association "Celebrating Partnerships". Vancouver, BC, May 12, 2015.

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