

February 21, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter in support of Dr. Norm Friesen in relation to his capacity as our supervisor on a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council-funded project entitled "Learning Spaces: A Phenomenological Comparison of Simulated and Mediated Life Worlds." At present we are three doctoral students in the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University, studying social and philosophical dimensions of technological innovation.

Since his arrival in Vancouver last September, Norm has facilitated weekly training and informal discussion sessions on the phenomenological method here at the Applied Communication and Technology Research Lab. He always arrives well prepared for these sessions, and takes the time to walk us through the process of applying this method to everyday situations. We have found that his interdisciplinary background has provided interesting perspectives for our research both within the Learning Spaces project and in our doctoral studies generally. Norm is always available for further discussion on topics related both to the project and to our other academic work outside of these weekly meetings. Furthermore, Norm has played an important mentorship role, as he is always available to discuss and impart advice concerning both the procedural and intellectual aspects of our doctoral program of study.

Norm's intellectual capacity is very impressive. He combines a deep theoretical sensitivity and a keen sense of real world contexts and applications of educational technology. His ability to communicate both his knowledge of the field and his passion for it stand as examples for all of us who have had the privilege to work with him.

Overall, Norm has been a valuable addition not just to the ACT Research Lab, but also to our own academic development. We do not hesitate to recommend him highly for any academic position.

Yours truly,



Grace Chung



Darryl Cressman



Ted Hamilton

PhD Candidates, School of Communication
Simon Fraser University