

**Advancing community engagement on healthcare in rural BC:
A gap analysis to improve community involvement in healthcare planning
Consent form for interview participants**



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Thank you for your interest in participating in this research study. Please read this form carefully. It is your right to request to have this form and all information about this study explained to you. Please ask the research team to clarify anything that you do not understand or that you would like to know more about. Please make sure that all your questions are answered to your satisfaction before deciding whether to participate in the research study.

Study team:

Principal Investigator: Jude Kornelsen, PhD
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Paul Adams
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Research Coordinator: Kate Wills, MPH
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Sponsor:

The Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia (SPARC BC).

Study purpose:

The purpose of this study is to understand and document rural residents' and communities' experiences of input into or engagement with healthcare decision-making.

Your voice will help us understand what we hear from policy makers and rural community leaders. This research project is the first step to bridge the gap between centralized, urban-based health planning and the needs and priorities of rural communities in BC. Understanding and addressing this disconnect is a step towards fostering a more inclusive, representative, and effective health policy-making process in BC.

Your perspective as a rural resident is essential and will contribute to more equitable healthcare policies and practices across BC's diverse communities.

Study procedures:

We are inviting you to participate in this study because you are either a key policy maker or a key rural community leader. The interview will be conducted virtually through Zoom. It will last approximately 60 minutes in total. This includes time for addressing questions about the study.

Confidentiality:

With your permission, we will audio record the interview, and a written version of the audio recording will be typed out. A transcript will be emailed to you to make sure that we have accurately captured what you have said. No information that can identify you will be included in the written version of recordings (e.g. name).

Zoom stores your name and usage data in Canada. To protect your identity and increase the protection of your personal information, you should log in to Zoom using a nickname. We can help you do that.

Study results:

The results of this study will be shared in various ways including journal articles, reports, oral presentations, and posters. The research team will hold an online provincial webinar to present results from the study and facilitate a deliberative dialogue with key decision-maker stakeholders. In addition to this, a summary will be available for participants.

In current best practices in research, electronic data is to be preserved for future use in open access initiatives. Open Access initiatives allow researchers from different universities to share their data upon completion of studies, to stimulate further use and exploration of existing data sets. Data from this study will be uploaded to an online repository and these files will be stripped

of any information that could identify participants (e.g., names, email addresses), to ensure confidentiality.

Potential benefits:

There will be no direct benefits to the participants involved in the research component of the project; however, we anticipate system-level benefits, which include gaining a clearer understanding of the constraints of using rural community voice in healthcare planning.

Potential risks:

There are no anticipated risks with this study. You can withdraw your participation from the study anytime during the interview or before your interview data is analyzed. Analysis of data for each interview will begin approximately three weeks after the interview. You may email Kate Wills at Kate.Wills@ubc.ca anytime during the three-week period after the interview to withdraw your participation from the study. After this three-week period ends, you are not able to withdraw your participation.

Remuneration/Compensation:

No reimbursement or incentives will be provided for participation in the interview.

Contact for information about the study:

If you have any questions or would like more information about this study, you may contact Kate Wills at Kate.Wills@ubc.ca.

Contact for information about the rights of research participants:

If you have any concerns or complaints about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, contact the Research Participant Complaint Line in the UBC Office of Research Ethics at 604-822-8598 or if long distance e-mail RSIL@ors.ubc.ca or call toll free 1-877-822-8598.

Consent:

Taking part in this study is entirely up to you. You may withdraw from the study without giving a reason and without any negative impact. Consent will be recorded via your signature below. If you are unable to electronically return this form to the study team, and would still like to participate, we will record your verbal consent before beginning the interview.

Your signature below indicates that you have received a copy of this consent form for your records and that you consent to participate in this study:

Participant Signature

Date

Participant's Name (Please Print)

Interview recording and study findings:

(Please circle your answer)

1. Do you give your permission to audio-record this interview?

Yes

No