

APPENDIX A



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LETTER OF INFORMATION FOR IMPLIED CONSENT

You are invited to participate in a study entitled **Strengthening Cultural Plans for Aboriginal Children and Adoption, Phase 2** that is being conducted by Dr. Jeannine Carriere at the University of Victoria. The contact information for Dr. Carriere is as follows:

Phone: 250-721-6452
Email: carriere@uvic.ca

Background

This research is being funded by the Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD) Adoption Services Branch. During Phase 1, non Aboriginal adoptive families of Aboriginal children and Aboriginal community representatives were interviewed to get their perspectives on the *Cultural Planning Policy*. The report from Phase 1 is available on the MCFD website for your information.

During Phase 2, I hope to receive your valued feedback through the attached questionnaire in order to reflect the experiences of adoption and guardianship workers in this important area of practice.

Purpose and Objectives

1. To determine the effectiveness of the current cultural planning policy in the adoption of Aboriginal children and youth in British Columbia.
2. To explore the strengths and/or challenges to cultural planning for Aboriginal children and youth in British Columbia
3. To develop recommendations for practice in cultural planning with the overall goal of facilitating positive outcomes for Aboriginal children in adopted families.

Importance of this Research

This research will assist to evaluate the Cultural Planning Policy and make recommendation to enhance this policy and practice in the adoption of Aboriginal children. Since its inception in 1996, there has not been an opportunity to review its effectiveness. We hope that by involving major stakeholders in the review, that the policy can be examined accordingly and revised if necessary.

Participant Selection

You have received this email as you are involved in adoption as either an adoption social worker or guardianship worker. Your name and information will not be used in any documents related to this research and I will be the only person who knows of your involvement.

What is Involved

If you agree to voluntarily participate in this research, your participation will include completing the attached questionnaire and returning it to me via email by December 30th, 2009. I will complete the analysis and compile a report by March 31st, 2010. You can expect to spend a maximum of one hour in completing the questionnaire and you are free to choose whatever location you feel will offer you the most privacy and ability to concentrate.

Risks

There are no known or anticipated risks to you by participating in this research.

Benefits

The benefits include the contribution to best practices in the adoption of Aboriginal children in British Columbia and other jurisdiction. This will be achieved through revisions to the cultural planning policy and related practices.

Voluntary Participation

Your participation is completely voluntary. If you choose to participate I have outlined the dates by which I would appreciate receiving your completed questionnaire. If you choose to withdraw from the research you may do so at any time and your information will not be used in the final analysis and report. If you decide to withdraw from the research however please do so prior to the drafting of the final report which is due on March 31st, 2010.

Anonymity

As described earlier your name will not appear in any information related to this research such as reports or other publications. I will be the only person who sees the names of participants as they contact me for information or send in their questionnaires.

Confidentiality

Completed questionnaires will be kept on my computer at the University of Victoria which is password protected.

Dissemination of results

The analysis of completed questionnaires will be correlated into a final report to MCFD Adoption Services. This will be in the form of a thematic analysis without participant information. You may request an executive summary of this report once it is complete. The summary can be emailed directly to you if you indicate your desire to receive it from me as Principal Investigator. Results may also be discussed at conference presentations and in written articles published by me as the Principal Investigator

Disposal of Data

Completed questionnaires will be deleted one year after the completion of the final report for the project.

Contacts

If you have further questions about this study please do not hesitate to contact me through the contact information at the beginning of this Information and Consent Letter.

In addition you may verify the ethical approval of this study, or raise any concerns you may have by contact the Human Research Ethics Office at the University of Victoria (250-472-4545 or ethics@uvic.ca)

By completing and submitting the questionnaire, **YOUR FREE AND INFORMED CONSENT IS IMPLIED** and indicates that you understand the above conditions of participation in this study and that you have had the opportunity to have your questions answered by the researcher.

Please retain a copy of this letter for your reference