

## Information Letter & Community Consent Form

**Title of Study:** The where of learning and teaching: an ethnographic survey of practices from the field

### Who is conducting the study?

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### Who is sponsoring the study?

The study is being funded by a UNBC SSHRC SSHRC GRF seed grant

### What is the purpose of the study?

We want to learn more about where learning is happening (classrooms, school ground, gym, online, etc.).

You are being invited to take part in this research study because you have important knowledge and experience to share around the topic of *where* teaching and learning occur, based on your experiences as **a community member connected to your local school, or as a non-teacher working at a participating school.**

This study examines *where* teaching and learning occur by following teaching and learning in the K-12 school system, and choices around *where* learning experiences are situated. In this project, *where* means where learning is occurring, for example: the classroom, the gym, the schoolyard, the computer lab, etc. We are interested in hearing your stories of how you perceive *where* aspects of the learning you have observed or participated in. The project aims to shed light on how distinct *where* choices may impact learning, health and wellness, connections to the natural world, and life experience.

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary, and you are in no way obligated to participate in this research. You are free to withdraw from this study at any time. You are also free not to answer any questions that make you feel uncomfortable.

### What will happen during the study?

**Community** participants will be recruited through School District #91 and the participating Burn Lake Schools via announcements and an in-person/online information meeting.

Community participants who consent to participate in the research will be asked to:

- 1) complete an online survey (10-15 minutes, one-time)- *required*
- 2) partake in a Focus Group (1.5 hours) (in-person or online, one-time)- *optional*

You may choose to participate in one or both of the above options.

For in-person participants in the Focus Group, snacks and a drink will be provided. If you attend the Focus Group online, no food or drink will be provided. You may decide to withdraw from the study at any point and your data will be removed. There are no consequences for withdrawing.

Data will be collected between December 2022-December 2023. Due to the nature of focus groups, anonymity will not be maintained. Focus Group participants will be asked to not talk about the Focus Group or who attended.

If you decide to attend the Focus Group online, you will be chaperoned by a member of the research team to participate in the in-person activities.

### **Is there any way that participating in this study could harm you?**

We do not think there is anything in this study that could harm you. Some of the questions we ask may seem sensitive or personal and might upset you. Remember, you do not have to answer any question if you do not want to and let us know if you have any concerns.

If, at any point in the study, you feel uncomfortable or upset and wish to end a session or your participation, please notify the researcher immediately and your wishes will be respected.

Due to the nature of the Focus Group, we are unable to assure anonymity, however we are requesting of everyone who participates that they respect the privacy of others and the project, and not communicate about their participation. With this measure, we are still unable to ensure anonymity.

Your privacy in the project is important to us and we shall keep all data confidential and only share out data in anonymous or summarized formats. Again, at any point, you may withdraw from the study, without consequence, and your data will be removed.

### **Will being in this study help you in any way? What are the benefits of participating?**

Taking part in this study may influence you around how teaching and learning experiences are organized and successful. Participation in this project may support health and wellness for learners, teachers and learning experiences by clarifying decisions around where learning occurs. Health and wellness benefits may include: physical (i.e., increased movement, moderate to vigorous movement, improved eyesight, etc.), mental (i.e., reduced anxiety, increased focus, improved concentration, etc.), socio-emotional (i.e., improved connections with peers and teachers, increased empathy, greater group cohesion, etc.), and pedagogical (i.e., improved memory/retention, greater learning focus, stronger connections through experiential learning, etc.). Learning may become more practical as a result of the study. Learning may develop healthy relationships with First Peoples and land, including relationships with more-than-humans, through listening to the *where* considerations of Elders, Indigenous educators and the voices of distinct places (i.e. forest, river, wind, etc.). In the future, others may benefit from what we learn in this study towards planning of teaching and learning experiences that include the *where* aspect of learning.

### **How will your privacy be maintained?**

Your anonymity will be respected. Information that discloses your identity will not be released without your consent. All data documents will be identified only by code number and through pseudonyms. Data will be kept in a locked filing cabinet or a password protected computer in a locked office. Participants will not be identified by name in any reports of the completed study. For the online survey, we will utilize the in-house UNBC Survey Tool that stores its data only in Canada. For focus groups, we encourage participants not to discuss the content of the focus group to people outside the group; however, we cannot control what participants do with the information discussed. We will use the artificial intelligence tool called Otter.ai to transcribe interviews. While Otter.ai's servers are in the U.S.A., uploaded interview audio files will contain no personal information. Participants will be referred to by an assigned numeric code. The audio files will



I have been given a copy of this form:

YES NO

I agree to be audio recorded:

YES NO

I consent/I do not consent to my child's participation in the study (if applicable, check one below):

I consent I do not consent

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

First and last names of child (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_