

## Information Letter & Teacher Consent Form

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

### Who is conducting the study?

Dr. Hartley Banack  
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### Who is sponsoring the study?

The study is being funded by a UNBC 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 **teacher**.

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 participate 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?**

**Teacher** participants will be recruited through School District #57 (Prince George) and School District #91 (Nechako Lakes) via announcements and in-person/online information sessions.

Teachers 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 30-60-minute open-ended interview (in-person or online, one-time)- *optional*
- 3) track where you taught, using the Day Reconstruction Method, over 10 school days (two-weeks) for approximately 15 minutes after each school day, using an online recording tool (total time =150 minutes, on-going over two weeks)- *optional*
- 4) host a researcher that will join their class for 2-3 half-day in-person observations (2-3 hours each)- *optional*

You may choose to participate in the survey or all of the other above options.

During in-person interviews, snacks and a drink will be provided. If you participate in the online survey and at least ONE other data collection event listed above, you will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate to an online bookstore. Even if you decide to withdraw later, you will still receive the gift certificate

All data collected from you will be made anonymous and data collection will take place between the months of December 2022 to December 2023.

## **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.

There are various parts to the study, and you may feel that the amount of time commitment is too great. There are various ways to be involved, and you can decide on ways that you feel fit your availability and capacity. You may also decide to withdraw, with no consequences, at any point, if you feel unable to continue.

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

Taking part in this study may help you plan teaching and learning experiences. 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 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. At any point, you may withdraw from the study, without consequence, and your data will be removed.

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. 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 only be held in the Otter.ai server for a limited time (length of the audio recording plus approximately 15 minutes) and then be permanently deleted.

The information gathered from this study will be kept for 5 years. It will then be securely destroyed [e.g. by shredding paper files, deleting digital files, etc.].

### **Will you be paid for your time/ taking part in this research study?**

We will not pay you for the time you take to be in this study. However, participating teachers will receive a snack and drink at in-person interviews and all who participate in two data collection events, as outlined above under "What will happen in this study?", will receive a \$25.00 gift card for taking part.

### **Study Results**

Research study findings will be summarized in two formats: 1) scholarly/technical paper/presentation- this format will include theoretical frameworks, connections to prior research, and future research considerations, and 2) practitioner's report- this format will include summary of findings in relation to curriculum and pedagogy, connections/implications of findings to practice, graphics and images to illustrate findings, and an invitation to get involved in the future. Scholarly research study findings will be published in peer-reviewed academic journals and presented at academic conferences. Practitioner report findings will be shared with participating School Districts as well as teacher conferences around British Columbia (i.e. WestCAST Conference- UBC, BCTEN (BC Teacher Educator Network Conference- virtual, annual BC Provincial Professional Development Day- virtual and in-person across BC). The research team will also extend an invitation to present findings at your school or in your School District. You will be invited to indicate your interest for us to share the findings with you from the online survey.

### **Questions, Concerns or Complaints about the project**

If you have any questions about what we are asking of you, please contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Hartley Banack, at: [hart.banack@unbc.ca](mailto:hart.banack@unbc.ca) or 250-960-5317.

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 UNBC Office of Research at 250-960-6735 or by e-mail at [reb@unbc.ca](mailto:reb@unbc.ca).

### Participant Consent and Withdrawal

Taking part in this study is entirely up to you. You have the right to refuse to participate in this study. If you decide to take part, you may choose to pull out of the study at any time without giving a reason and without any negative impact on you or your standing in the School District community.

By clicking "I consent" below, you indicate your signature and that you have received a copy of this consent form for your own records.

**CONSENT** *(please click ONE response below for each statement)*

I have read or been described the information presented in the information letter about the project:

YES                      NO

I have had the opportunity to ask questions about my involvement in this project and to receive additional details I requested:

YES                      NO

I understand that if I agree to participate in this project, I may withdraw from the project at any time up until the report completion, with no consequences of any kind:

YES                      NO

I have been given a copy of this form:

YES                      NO

I agree to be audio recorded:

YES                      NO

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

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

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