

## **Mainline Protestant Religious Leaders' Responses to the Conversion Therapy Ban in Canada**

### **INFORMATION LETTER**

Dear Potential Participant:

You are being invited to participate in a research study analyzing mainline Protestant religious leaders' responses to the conversion therapy ban in Canada.

Taking part in this study is voluntary. Before you decide whether or not you would like to take part in this study, please read this letter carefully to understand what is involved. After you have read the letter, please ask any questions you may have.

#### **Purpose**

I want to understand mainline Protestant religious leaders' responses to the recent conversion therapy ban in Canada.

#### **What information will be collected?**

I will ask you questions about your thoughts and reactions to the conversion therapy ban. These questions will be in the form of an interview.

#### **What is requested of me as a participant?**

The nature of your participation is similar to a conversation. The interview will last about 45-60 minutes and will be facilitated via Zoom or phone as per your choice.

#### **What are my rights as a participant?**

Please be assured that you are under no obligation to participate and may withdraw at any time before or during the interview. Withdrawal from the study after the interview has been completed is not guaranteed as the data will be anonymized immediately after. You have the right to refuse to answer any questions and may terminate the interview at any time. You have the right to privacy and anonymity as you are not required to indicate your name or any other personal information.

#### **What are the risks and benefits?**

There are no foreseeable risks to your participation in this project. One potential benefit is that this research will offer insight into how Protestant communities are responding to the conversion therapy ban. Another potential benefit is that this research study may influence public awareness and/or Canadian policy analysis.

#### **How will my confidentiality be maintained?**

Your confidentiality is ensured as the interview does not require you to indicate your name or any other personal information. When I record the interview and then transcribe or convert the audio recording to text, I also eliminate personal identifying things you might have said. The

only people with access to the audio recordings and transcribed data are myself and my supervisor.

**What will my data be used for?**

The data will help me answer my research question, “How are mainline Protestant religious leaders responding to the conversion therapy ban in Canada?”. This research study is being completed to fulfill one requirement of the Master of Social Work program at Lakehead University. The anonymized results of the research study may also be published within peer reviewed academic journals.

**Where will my data be stored?**

All data, including audio, transcriptions, and cumulative data, will be stored by myself on a password-protected hard drive in a locked file cabinet in a locked office at Lakehead University in the School of Social Work. Data must be stored for a minimum of 5 years following completion of the project.

**How can I receive a copy of the research results?**

Please contact me, Brooklyn Wilson, at [bkwilson@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:bkwilson@lakeheadu.ca) for a one-page summary of the results.

**What if I want to withdraw from the study?**

You are able to withdraw from the study at any time before or during the interview process. Withdrawal from the study after the interview has been completed is not guaranteed as the data will be anonymized immediately after. To withdraw before the interview, simply tell the researcher by email that you wish to withdraw. To withdraw during the interview, simply tell the researcher verbally that you wish to withdraw.

**Researcher contact information:**

You may contact me, Brooklyn Wilson, at [bkwilson@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:bkwilson@lakeheadu.ca).

You may also contact my supervisor and the Principal Investigator, Dr. Ravi Gokani, at [rgokani@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:rgokani@lakeheadu.ca).

**Research Ethics Board review and approval:**

The research study has been reviewed and approved by the Lakehead University Research Ethics Board. If you have any questions related to the ethics of the research and would like to speak to someone outside of the research team, please contact Sue Wright at the Research Ethics Board at 807-343-8282 or [research@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:research@lakeheadu.ca).