



## Focus Group Consent Form: Reciprocity and the First Nations Curriculum Concentration

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### Research Team:

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### Purpose:

The UBC School of Information's First Nations Curriculum Concentration (FNCC) is a concentration that enables students in the Master of Archival Studies (MAS), Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS), and DUAL (MAS & MLIS) programs to specialize in course content and professional experience that centers Indigenous information practices. Students, faculty and our external partners recognize the increasing need—within Indigenous communities, Indigenous-led organizations, and across societies—for information professionals who have the capacity to ethically steward Indigenous information by, with, and for Indigenous peoples.

We are conducting this study to support the ongoing development of the FNCC in ways that align with the interests and priorities of our students and partners. **We are conducting focus groups with FNCC students and alumni, and interviews with UBC faculty and staff who have existing relationships with the FNCC. The purpose of this study is to learn from the ways participants conceptualize reciprocity in an academic context that is engaged in efforts towards decolonization/Indigenization.** Insights from these conversations will support efforts



to re-envision the concentration with the aim of enhancing the learning and teaching capacity across our graduate programs, developing a more supportive learning environment for Indigenous students, staff, and faculty, building meaningful partnerships with Indigenous-facing programs and centres across UBC, and laying foundations for future partnerships with Indigenous communities and Indigenous-led organizations across the lower-mainland. Our work is supported by UBC's Advancing Education Renewal grant.

### **Study Procedures:**

If you agree to participate in a focus group, we will ask you to participate in a remote conversation via Zoom with other FNCC students and/or alumni about the First Nations Curriculum Concentration. During the focus group, we will ask you a series of questions about what you perceive to be the strengths of the FNCC, any opportunities you identify for the FNCC, your aspirations for the concentration, and what reciprocity might look like to you in this context. If you agree to participate, you will be given the questions to review before the focus group.

The focus group itself will take up to 90 minutes. We will record the conversation by taking notes as we talk and through audio recording. You may choose whether to turn on your video or keep it off, and no video recording will be saved. *You are free to leave the focus group at any point.* Your name will not be included in the transcription or notes of the conversation and nothing you say will be attributed to you individually in publications from the project. Your decision to participate/not to participate/to withdraw from the study will have no impact on your employment, promotion, or academic program at UBC. If there are parts of the notes or audio recording that you contributed and would like removed from our records, we will permanently remove them through shredding and demagnetization. A summary of the focus group will be sent to you afterwards for your review and approval. You can choose whether you would like to be contacted again and if you would like to answer any further questions.

Copies of published products from the project will be made available to participants upon request. All participants will be invited to a "Final Gathering" event at the end of the project in spring 2022. At this event, the research team will present our findings and formally thank our participants for their contributions.

### **Risks and Benefits of Participation:**

Challenging topics may arise in our conversation about preparing Indigenous and non-Indigenous students to work with Indigenous peoples, Indigenous histories, and current realities, as information professionals. We anticipate that these topics align with conversations you already have within your classes and/or professional role. If you are Indigenous, we recognize that asking you to reflect on ways to improve the FNCC may remind you of past experiences, surface emotional and psychological harms and add additional emotional labour. Indigenous FNCC students and alumni will have the opportunity to participate in an Indigenous-only focus group, facilitated by Indigenous members of the research team. We anticipate that documenting these



reflections will improve awareness of Indigenous experiences within the School of Information. Counseling resources will be provided to you and you may decline to answer any interview questions without explanation.

Because the FNCC is a small community, you will likely know others who participate in the focus group with you. The focus group facilitator will be a member of our research team. We encourage all participants to refrain from disclosing the contents of the discussion outside of the focus group; however, we cannot control what other participants do with the information discussed. Additionally, you may attend classes and/or work in the same unit as other participants or members of the research team, which may present a social risk. You may decline to participate in any part of the study without explanation and may withdraw yourself and your data from the research at any time.

There are no direct benefits from participating in this study. However, you may find the conversation helpful in reflecting on your own experiences and issues and opportunities impacting your own work. Additionally, participation in this study may help to strengthen relationships that support your professional interests and priorities.

**Confidentiality of Personal Information and Data:**

All participant names will be replaced with pseudonyms in the transcript/summary of the focus group. Notes, code logs, narrative summaries, signed consent forms, and transcripts will be kept in locked storage in Lisa Nathan's locked office at the School of Information. Audio recordings will be held digitally only, and will be stored on a secure, research team UBC-hosted shared server. Access will be provided only to research team members. While some of the outcomes of the study will be shared publicly, the data collected will not.

**Remuneration/Compensation:**

We will offer you a small gift as a token of appreciation for your time and expertise.

**Contact Information:**

If you have any questions about this project, would like further information, or to provide feedback, you may contact our research coordinator, Michelle Kaczmarek at [michelle.kaczmarek@ubc.ca](mailto:michelle.kaczmarek@ubc.ca), Dr. Lisa Nathan@ubc.ca, the Primary Contact for this project, or you may contact any member of the research team listed on the front of this consent form.

*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](tel:604-822-8598) or if long distance email [RSIL@ors.ubc.ca](mailto:RSIL@ors.ubc.ca) or call toll free [1-877-822-8598](tel:1-877-822-8598).*

**Please indicate your preferences below:**



- You agree that we may **take notes and record your focus group on digital audio and use the transcript of your contributions or summarize its contents in a way that does not identify you in any report or publication** as part of our project. After you have had the opportunity to withdraw any contributions you choose to, you will have the opportunity to review and approve the summary of the focus group. If you do not ask for your contributions to be removed, your contributions to the focus group may be used in future publications about the project.
  
- You understand that you may withdraw materials from the project at any time prior to their use in the ways to which you have agreed.
  
- You would like to request a copy of published findings from this project. Please provide your preferred email address if you select this option. \_\_\_\_\_.

**Consent:**

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you may refuse to participate or withdraw from the study at any time. Your signature indicates that you have read and understood the above information and consent to participate in this study. Your signature below also indicates that you have received a copy of this consent form for your own records.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of the Participant