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## **Experiences of Indigenous Girls in Grade 8-12 Public Education**

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# **Parental Consent Form**

**Title of Project:** Experiences of Indigenous Girls in Grade 8-12 Public Education

This consent form, a copy of which has been given to you, is only part of the process of informed parental consent for your child to participate in a research study. If you want more details about something mentioned here, or information not included here, you should feel free to ask. Please take the time to read this carefully and to understand any accompanying information.

The University of Calgary Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board has approved this research study.

**Purpose** – The purpose of this research is to understand the experiences of Indigenous girls in the educational system in School District 91. In addition, we seek to understand the strengths and difficulties they have experienced in their education. In no way is our research designed to be judgmental, we are only seeking methods to continually improve the quality of education and leadership in the district. If you choose to allow your child to participate, all of their responses will be anonymized. Your child is not required to participate in this research. If you do want your child to participate, they will not be treated differently by teachers, administrators or anyone involved in this research. If you do want your child to participate, you will have up to a week after your survey is complete to change your mind and remove your child's data from the study.

**What will be asked of your child?** - This research will consist of surveys in order to get your child's perspective on educational issues. These surveys will take approximately 15 minutes and will be administered by staff of School District 91. The questions will be basic about education and school experience. Your child's responses will be anonymized and analyzed among dozens of other teachers and community and hundreds of other students.

**What will be done with the information** – The information will be anonymized and combined in order to inform educational recommendations going forward in the district. In addition, findings from this study will be published in academic journals and presented at conferences. No one, besides the home-school coordinator, will ever know your child's individual responses and that they have participated in the study.

## **What Type of Personal Information Will Be Collected**

No personal identifying information will be collected in this study.

The audiotapes recorded during the surveys will never be shown to anyone outside of the researchers, and will be destroyed immediately upon transcriptions.

**There are several options for you to consider if you decide to take part in this research. You can choose all, some, or none of them. Please review each of these options and choose Yes or No:**

I grant permission for my child's survey to be audio taped: Yes: \_\_\_ No: \_\_\_

## **Are there Risks or Benefits if your Child Participates?**

Our primary goal is to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants within the study. Based on the topic being researched we have no reason to assume to participants will be in any risk. However, some questions about oppression in the school may have students and educators thinking about racism and systemic barriers. Within the study, we will be emphasizing the strengths, so overall the experiences of participants will be positive and not dwelling on negative elements. We will work closely with our partners to ensure a safe space that honors the stories being shared. Indigenous methodologies are the bedrock of this research, which will help inform every interaction to ensure we are supportive and responsive based on both Indigenous and Western approaches.

## **What Happens to the Information I Provide?**

Only the co-investigators and the research assistants will have access to the information from the surveys. The researchers will do whatever they can to eliminate any identifiable information shared during the survey.

If you decide to withdraw from the study, at any time, all of your audiotapes will be destroyed and none of your information will be transcribed or included in the study.

Participation is completely voluntary and confidential. Your child is free to discontinue participation at any time during the study. No one except the researchers and his investigators will be allowed to see or hear any of the answers. Only group information will be summarized for any presentation or publication of results. The surveys are kept in a locked cabinet only accessible by the researchers. The data will be retained by both the researcher and the First Nation partners. The data collection will occur in whichever site parents and students are the most comfortable. This could include their homes, the school, or a neutral location.

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## ***Signatures***

Your signature on this form indicates that 1) you understand to your satisfaction the information provided to you about your participation in this research project, and 2) you agree to participate in the research project.

In no way does this waive your legal rights nor release the investigators, sponsors, or involved institutions from their legal and professional responsibilities. You are free to withdraw from this research project at any time. After your child takes the survey, you have up to a week to have their data removed from the study, if you so choose. You should feel free to ask for clarification or new information throughout your participation.

Student's Name: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Researcher's Name: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Researcher's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Questions/Concerns**

If you have any further questions or want clarification regarding this research and/or your participation, please contact:

Dr. Dustin Louie  
Werklund School of Education  
(403)220-2684 [dwlouie@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dwlouie@ucalgary.ca)

If you have any concerns about the way you have been treated as a participant, please contact the Research Ethics Analyst, Research Services, University of Calgary at 403.220.6289 or 403.220.8640; e-mail [cfreb@ucalgary.ca](mailto:cfreb@ucalgary.ca).

A copy of this consent form has been given to you to keep for your records and reference. The investigator has kept a copy of the consent form.