

TRACKING CHANGE IN THE MACKENZIE RIVER BASIN

Dear Potential Research Participant,

You are being asked to participate in this study because you are considered to be knowledgeable about the importance of and changes occurring in **[INSERT GEOGRAPHIC AREA]** of the Mackenzie River Basin. We are interested in interviewing you about your observations and experiences or other knowledge you think would be relevant in respect of:

- historical and contemporary observations and perceptions of conditions and change in the health of the **aquatic environment** (e.g., water quality, quantity, flow, groundwater, permafrost conditions);
- historical and contemporary observations and perceptions of conditions and change in **fish species** (population, movements, diversity, invasive species) and other **aquatic species** (e.g., geese, beaver);
- sustainability of **fishing livelihoods** (e.g., harvesting levels and practices, diet, health, access issues, perceptions of change in the health of valued fish species);
- implications of change for **governance** (e.g., how to maintain healthy relationships to the aquatic ecosystem, maintaining respectful and spiritual relationships, respecting treaty rights);

Before you make a decision, a researcher will go over this form with you. You are encouraged to ask questions if you feel anything needs to be made clearer. You will be given a copy of this form for your records.

Why is this research being done?

Many communities in the Mackenzie River Basin are experiencing changes in the environment and their communities. A major concern expressed by many Aboriginal organizations is about the sustainability of water, fish and fishing livelihoods. The **[LEAD ORGANIZATION]** is working with researchers from the University of Alberta and other universities in Canada and internationally to help document the importance of water, fish and fishing livelihoods to you and your community as well as document any changes you have seen or experienced in your lifetime. Other Aboriginal organizations in the Mackenzie River Basin are also involved such as our neighbouring communities of **[NEIGHBOURING REGIONS]**. There are ten projects this year in which communities are going to be asking similar kinds of questions about the water, fish and

fishing livelihoods. The study is funded by the University of Alberta through an organization called the *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council*. Together we will be able to link our stories together to get a much better understanding of how the Mackenzie River Basin as a whole is changing. You can find out more about the project at www.trackingchange.ca

What will I be asked to do?

You will be asked to participate in a conversation (narrative interview) lasting approximately one and half-hours. We would like to audio and/or video record the interview and ask you to record information on maps if possible. This interview will focus on your observations and experiences of areas that are important to you and/or changes in [INSERT GEOGRAPHIC AREA].

What are the risks and discomforts?

There are no risks or discomforts that may result from the study.

What will you need to do?

You will sit with an interviewer and you are free to tell him/her anything that you think is relevant to the study.

What are the benefits to me?

You will receive a \$50 honorarium (gift card) to compensate you for your time.

Do I have to take part in the study?

You do not have to participate in the study, and you can stop the interview anytime.

What will happen to the information?

- The stories that you share including any mapped, audio and video recordings will be held by the [LEAD ORGANIZATION]. Another copy will be held at the University of Alberta for a minimum of 10 years. These transcripts will not be used for any other purpose.
- We would like to acknowledge you by name in these reports. If you do not wish your name to be included, we will give you a anonymous identity (e.g., A1).
- You will receive a copy of the transcript of your interview after the interview is completed. If you decide to withdraw or edit your transcript, you will have 30 days to do so; after that 30 day period, however, we may not be able to remove information from reports etc. if it has already become public.
- A summary from the project will be developed and shared with other communities in the Mackenzie River Basin so they can learn more from you about changes you are experiencing; you will receive summary reports from the other regions as well. The lead organization will not include information in the summary reports that it considers confidential or information you do not wish to be shared publically.

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- In addition to the summary reports from your region, the {LEAD ORGANIZATION} will work with other organizations and universities to create academic outcome as well as a book and video documentary that shows how changes occurring in your region are the same or different from other areas.

What if I have questions?

If you have any questions about the research now or later, please contact me.

Warm regards,

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