

Grand-Erie Study Information (Elaine Ho)

Introduction

The goal of this stage of the research is to capture the relationships between people and the Grand River or Lake Erie, highlighting the following themes: things you care about, water challenges, and ideas for solutions. This questionnaire is part of a PhD research project at the University of Waterloo. You may skip questions you do not wish to answer.

The researcher, Elaine Ho (PhD Candidate), will use the ideas and perspectives shared in your responses to shape the future of water monitoring in your community. Water monitoring in this study refers to the way we measure and interpret the health of our river and lake. Common things to monitor include water quantity (e.g., drought versus flooding), water quality (e.g., presence of *E. coli* or pollutants like mercury) and living things (e.g., checking fish for parasites or illness, ensuring they are breeding).

Eligibility (you must meet both criteria):

1. You are a member of Six Nations of the Grand River **OR** you live, work, or attend school in Haldimand County.
2. You are attending a Great Art for Great Lakes workshop. If you are under the age of 18, you are attending with the permission of a legal guardian.

More information and signed consent

Title of the study: Monitoring in the Grand-Erie Interface: Developing a framework for the lower Grand River and nearshore Lake Erie in consideration of cumulative effects

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To help you make an informed decision regarding your participation, this letter will explain what the study is about, the possible risks and benefits, and your rights as a research participant. If you do not understand something in the letter, please ask one of the investigators prior to consenting to the study.

What is the study about?

You are invited to participate in a research study about the priorities of the Six Nations and Haldimand County communities as they relate to the lower Grand River and nearshore Lake Erie. The purpose of this study is to collect information about the priorities of community members regarding the water system – what matters most, how people have interacted with the water system (e.g., swimming,

drinking, business, culture), what are the challenges they see, and what are some ideas for solutions to those challenges.

This study is being undertaken as part of my PhD research. The information gathered through this study will be used to inform future water monitoring and decision-making in the lower Grand River and nearshore Lake Erie.

I. Your responsibilities as a participant

What does participation involve?

Participation in the study consists responding to a short questionnaire at the Great Art for Great Lakes workshop.

Who may participate in the study?

To participate in this study you must be a member of the Six Nations of the Grand River **OR** a person who lives, works, and/or attends school in Haldimand County. You must also be 16 years of age or older at the time of registration (if under 18 years old, your legal guardian must sign this consent form).

II. Your rights as a participant

Is participation in the study voluntary?

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may decline to participate at any time during the study by not answering questions you do not wish to answer. Because your responses are anonymous, once you submit them to the researcher you will no longer be able to withdraw consent.

Will I receive anything for participating in the study?

There is no remuneration for participation in this study.

What are the possible benefits of the study?

Insights from all submissions will be synthesized into a report after the Great Art for Great Lakes workshops are all complete. The collective responses of participants will create a valued resource that may influence present or future water monitoring and/or water management decisions in your community. In other words, this is an opportunity to be engaged with and influence management processes that are not often open to public participation.

What are the risks associated with the study?

There are no known or anticipated risks involved in this study.

Will my information be kept confidential?

No identifying information is being collected (note: please do not write your name on your questionnaire). Information provided on the consent form will be kept confidential.

Data retention and storage

Upon receiving your paper questionnaires, I will type up your anonymous responses into a digital file. Paper copies of the questionnaire responses will be destroyed upon digitization. Digital records will be kept on my personal password-protected computer until the study is complete, at least until December 31, 2020.

III. Questions, comments, or concerns

Who is sponsoring/funding this study?

This study is partly supported by the Lake Futures project (under Global Water Futures) at the University of Waterloo.

Has the study received ethics clearance?

This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through a University of Waterloo Research Ethics Committee (ORE #40417). If you have questions for the Committee contact the Office of Research Ethics, at 1-519-888-4567 ext. 36005 or ore-ceo@uwaterloo.ca.

Who should I contact if I have questions regarding my participation in the study?

If you have any questions regarding this study or would like additional information to assist you in reaching a decision about participation, please contact Elaine Ho by email at e23ho@uwaterloo.ca. You may also contact my supervisor or co-supervisor. My Supervisor is Dr. Andrew Trant, who can be reached at 519-888-4567 x30385 or at atrant@uwaterloo.ca. My co-supervisor is Dr. Simon Courtenay, who can be reached at 519-888-4567 x35796 or at simon.courtenay@uwaterloo.ca.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elaine Ho', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Elaine Ho, PhD Candidate
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