



### Letter of Initial Contact

Building adaptation pathways for local food production in the Okanagan bioregion: An applied participative approach

Dear prospective participant:

My name is Ayla Brown, and I am a master's student enrolled in Sustainability studies at the University of British Columbia Okanagan (UBCO). I am the Co-Investigator working on a research project titled: *Building adaptation pathways for local food production in the Okanagan bioregion: An applied participative approach*, under the supervision of the Primary Investigator, Dr. Donna Senese, Associate Dean of the Department of Community, Culture and Global Studies. Both Dr. Senese and I are interested in uncovering ways to help local food production in the Okanagan adapt to socio-economic and environmental changes, and have successfully completed research projects exploring the resilience of the industry in the past.

The purpose of this research is to collaboratively build adaptation pathways that address change in the form of both current and future shocks (e.g. pandemics) and stressors (e.g. climate change) affecting local food production in the Okanagan. Adaptation pathways are a set of adaptation actions, sequenced over time to respond to risks posed by shocks and stressors. This research aims to identify if and how adaptation pathways can be used to build resilience, or the ability to prepare, adapt and innovate for the eventuality of shocks and stressors.

**You have been identified as a stakeholder or expert involved in local food production, and are someone who may have important knowledge that will contribute to the development and implementation of the future of local food production in the valley. We would like to invite you to participate in a virtual mapping survey, where we will ask you questions about:**

- (1) Yourself and your connection to food production;
- (2) What kind of hazards, vulnerabilities and risks to local food production you may have experienced;
- (3) Your views and hopes for the future of food production in the Okanagan.

This survey will take place on Qualtrics and the Geolive platform, which is a mapping survey software developed by UBCO. Your participation is entirely voluntary through all stages of this research, and you may contact the researchers to revoke your consent at any time. Should you choose to withdraw from the study, you will receive an e-mail from the co-investigator within a week's time, confirming your withdrawal.



If you choose to participate in this survey, you will be sent a survey link to Qualtrics where you will (1) be asked to read through the letter of consent and signal your consent, and then (2) fill out the survey questionnaire. **Please be sure to use a computer or tablet (not your cellphone) to complete this survey.** Should you have any questions or require further information, you may contact the researcher via e-mail or request a meeting via your preferred means of telephone or zoom call.

We are not aware of any physical, cultural or privacy risks to you as a result of your participation in this research. The questions asked in the survey focus primarily on community-level issues, however, they may draw on personal experiences related to the impacts of stressful events such as COVID-19. As a participant, you may choose whether or not to answer any questions, based on your comfort level with the topic, and you are free to withdraw at any time. A list of free mental health services will also be made available to you, should the need arise.

Any documents resulting from this survey will be identified only by code number and kept in a locked filing cabinet in a secure office at UBCO. You will not be identified in the reports coming from this research. All electronic data will be kept on a computer hard disk and will be protected by password. Access to these passwords will be limited to the Principal and Co-Investigators. The results of the study will be used in a master's thesis as well as other academic publications, and will be sent to you once made publicly available.

Should you like to participate, we would ask you to contact the co-investigator within a month's time so that she might contact you via your preferred method, either e-mail, phone or zoom, to outline the purpose of this research, your role in it and expectations for participation and to answer any of your questions. If you have any further questions or require more information, please feel free to contact the Co-investigator any time (e. [ayla11@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:ayla11@mail.ubc.ca) Or tel. 778-214-0650).

Yours sincerely,

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