

You are invited to take part in a research project entitled, Toxic Inheritance: WWII Contamination in Labrador and its Implications for Heritage.

This form is part of the process of informed consent. It should give you the basic idea of what the research is about and what your participation will involve. It also describes your right to withdraw from the study. In order to decide whether you wish to participate in this research study, you should understand enough about its risks and benefits to be able to make an informed decision. This is the informed consent process. Take time to read this carefully and to understand the information given to you. Please contact the researcher, Julia Brennan, if you have any questions about the study or for more information not included here before you consent.

It is entirely up to you to decide whether to take part in this research. If you choose not to take part in this research or if you decide to withdraw from the research once it has started, there will be no negative consequences for you, now or in the future.

## **Introduction**

I am a PhD candidate at Memorial University. As part of my PhD, I am conducting research under the supervision of Drs. Neilsen and Burchell. This research focuses on toxic contamination and heritage in Labrador. As of November 2020, this research is in the process of being funded. I have applied to the J.R. Smallwood Research Grant, Northern Scientific Training Program (NSTP), and I will apply to the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) grant, and the Provincial Archaeology Office grant.

## **Purpose of study**

This study focuses on toxic contamination and heritage in Labrador with an emphasis on WWII. For my first objective, I will map both the contamination and heritage data for Labrador to help understand the extent of WWII contamination and its relation to heritage. My second objective is to define how toxic contamination can be used as an archaeological artifact, this has yet to be fully realized in the archaeological discipline. Finally, my third objective will be to perform dendrochemical analysis to test a novel

portable X-Ray Fluorescence (pXRF) methodology's application to archaeology. This consent form primarily concerns the first objective, mapping contamination in Labrador.

## **What you will do in this study**

The consent form primarily concerns objective 1, the survey and interviews, that will focus on contamination and heritage in Labrador. You will be asked to share information about places you know are contaminated, places you suspect to be contaminated, and your understanding of contamination in Labrador. You will also be asked about places of heritage. These may be identified on a map. If you fill out the survey, there will be an option for you to participate in a formal interview at a later date. As this study can take place online and over the phone, you are welcome to participate from anywhere. The only requirement is that you are willing to share your experience and knowledge about contamination and heritage in Labrador.

## **Length of time**

The online survey will take approximately 30 minutes. Afterwards, you may be contacted to participate in a formal interview. You are free to decline the formal interview but if you wish to participate there would be between 1-3 formal interview sessions lasting 1 hour each.

## **Withdrawal from the study**

Withdrawal from the study is possible while the study is still in the process. If you wish to withdraw from the study, please contact Julia Brenan ([Julia.brenan@mun.ca](mailto:Julia.brenan@mun.ca)) and she will remove the information you have given. You are free to withdraw from the study without having to give a reason and doing so will not affect you now or in the future. However, after December 31, 2021, all data will be processed, anonymized, prepared for publication, and can no longer be removed from the study. December 31, 2021 is also the deadline to prevent your transcript being deposited in the archives if you had previously agreed to this, please notify Julia Brenan ([Julia.brenan@mun.ca](mailto:Julia.brenan@mun.ca)) by December 31, 2021.

## **Possible benefits**

By participating in the project you will help create a more complete map of contamination and heritage in Labrador that will be available to all. By participating in the interviews, you can further ensure that a record of your experience with contamination gets placed in the archives for future generations.

## **Possible risks**

Although your name and identifiable traits will not appear in public data unless you give permission, the community is small and tight knit so there is the possibility that someone will recognize your story or description.

Participating in this research may initiate or grow negative emotions related to contamination and heritage. If you become upset by the interview, its content, or the study, included below are a list of resources I encourage you to use:

Mental Health Crisis Line: 24 hour Toll Free, 1-888-737-4668

Doorways Walk-In Clinic: Call 811 and a Healthline nurse will provide you with a local contact number

First Nations & Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line: 24 hour Toll Free, 1-855-242-3310 or connect to an online chat at [hopeforwellness.ca](http://hopeforwellness.ca)  
Memorial University Students: MUN's Student Wellness and Counseling Center, (709) 864-8874

## **Confidentiality**

Confidentiality is ensuring that identities of participants are accessible only to those authorized to have access.

Because the participants for this research project are self-selected from a small group of people, some of whom may be known to each other, it is possible that you may be identifiable to other people on the basis of what you have said. I would like to remind you that your name will not appear in any of the public documents, unless permission is given, and the data you provide will not be available to people outside the research

team, or for secondary research (research done by other people in the future) without your consent.

## **Anonymity**

Anonymity refers to not disclosing participant's identifying characteristics, such as name or description of physical appearance.

If you wish to participate in this study and remain anonymous every reasonable effort will be made to ensure your anonymity in the online survey and interviews. You will not be identified in any reports or publications without your permission.

The online survey can be answered anonymously, this is the default setting, however, I would like to remind you it is possible that you may be identifiable to other people on the basis of what you have said.

## **Recording of Data**

For the survey, what you enter into the online survey is the data that will be recorded.

For the interview portion of the study, an audio recording device will be used if you agree to it. Audio recording allows us to write down, or transcribe, the conversation later and not rely on notes and memory ensuring more accuracy in our work.

If you have any other documents (e.g. photos, official notices, etc.) concerning contamination and heritage in Labrador you would like to include in this study, photography or scanning may be used to copy this material. It may also be handed over to Them Days and the Labrador Institute Archives at the end of the study with your permission. Aggregate data may be given over to the NunatuKavut Community Council, Innu Nation, the Nunatsiavut Government, and the Provincial Archaeology Office at the conclusion of this study.

## **Use, Access, Ownership, and Storage of Data**

The data obtained for this project will be kept on a password protected computer and backed up on an external hard drive. Hard copies of consent forms will be stored in a file separate from the transcripts as required by MUN. Data for this project may be accessed by my supervisors, research assistants, and transcribers. With your permission, interviews will be deposited at Them Days and the Labrador Institute Archives when this project is complete. Aggregate data may be given over to the NunatuKavut Community Council, Innu Nation, the Nunatsiavut Government, and the Provincial Archaeology Office at the conclusion of this study. All data associated with this project will be kept for a minimum of five years, as required by Memorial University's policy on Integrity in Scholarly Research.

## **Third-Party Data Collection and/ Storage**

For the online survey portion of this project, data collected from you as part of your participation in this project will be hosted and/or stored electronically on Digital Ocean ([digitalocean.com](https://digitalocean.com)) and is subject to their privacy policy, and to any relevant laws of the country in which their servers are located. Therefore, anonymity and confidentiality of data may not be guaranteed in the rare instance, for example, that government agencies obtain a court order compelling the provider to grant access to specific data stored on their servers. If you have questions or concerns about how your data will be collected or stored, please contact the researcher and/or visit the provider's website for more information before participating. The privacy and security policy of the third-party hosting data collection and/or storing data can be found at: [digitalocean.com/trust](https://digitalocean.com/trust).

## **Reporting of Results**

Data for this study will be used in conference presentations, an annual summary and report to the Provincial Archaeology Office, presentations to students, informal articles, and journal articles some of which will make up my PhD thesis.

The data will be reported aggregated or in a summarized form. Direct quotes and personally identifying information will only be used if permission is given.

## Sharing of Results with Participants

After participation in this study is complete, information will be provided to participants in the form of a community presentation or poster (Covid-19 and funding permitting).

Participants and the public will have full access to the map created from the interviews and data collection. Copies of this work, in the form of the map link and articles that will make up my thesis, will be sent to participants who provide their email addresses and wish to receive a copy. Upon completion, my thesis will be available at Memorial University's Queen Elizabeth II library and can be accessed online at ([https://research.library.mun.ca/view/theses\\_dept/](https://research.library.mun.ca/view/theses_dept/)). Additional articles written from this research will be available upon request ([Julia.brenan@mun.ca](mailto:Julia.brenan@mun.ca)) and through ResearchGate ([https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Julia\\_Brenan](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Julia_Brenan)).

## Questions

You are welcome to ask questions at any time during your participation in this research. If you would like more information about this study, please contact: Julia Brennan at [Julia.brenan@mun.ca](mailto:Julia.brenan@mun.ca) or Dr. Scott Neilsen at [scott.neilsen@mun.ca](mailto:scott.neilsen@mun.ca) or Dr. Burchell at [mburchell@mun.ca](mailto:mburchell@mun.ca).

## ICEHR Approval Statement

The proposal for this research has been reviewed by the Interdisciplinary Committee on Ethics in Human Research and found to be in compliance with Memorial University's ethics policy. If you have ethical concerns about the research, such as the way you have been treated or your rights as a participant, you may contact the Chairperson of the ICEHR at [icehr@mun.ca](mailto:icehr@mun.ca) or by telephone at 709-864-2861.

## **Consent**

### **By completing this survey you agree that**

- You have read the information about the research.
- You have been advised that you may ask questions about this study and receive answers prior to continuing.
- You are satisfied that any questions you had have been addressed.
- You understand what the study is about and what you will be doing.
- You understand that you are free to withdraw participation from the study by closing your browser window or navigating away from this page, without having to give a reason and that doing so will not affect you now or in the future.
- You understand that if you choose to withdraw, you may request that your data be removed from the study by contacting the researcher before December 31, 2021.

By consenting to this online survey, you do not give up your legal rights and do not release the researchers from their professional responsibilities.

Please retain a copy of this consent information for your records.

Clicking continue and submitting this survey constitutes consent and implies your agreement to the above statements.