

## Consent Form - Interview

**Title of the study:** The conceptualization and enactment of social and emotional learning in Canada: Exploring links between research, policy, and practice

**Principal Investigator:** Heather Woods  
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**Supervisor:** Dr. J. David Smith  
Professor  
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**Invitation to Participate:** You are invited to participate in the abovementioned research study conducted by Heather Woods as part of her PhD thesis under the supervision of Dr. J. David Smith.

**Purpose of the Study:** The purpose of the study is to explore Canadian elementary educators' experiences with social emotional learning (SEL) and how these initiatives are enacted. Specifically, I am interested in your experience of how SEL initiatives have unfolded and how you enact these initiatives.

**Participation:** The expected duration will be roughly 30-40 minutes. Participation will involve answering open-ended questions regarding your experiences with SEL one-on-one with me, Heather Woods, over an online voice call, using the platform of your choosing (e.g., Skype, Google Hangouts, or Zoom.us). Interviews will be audio-recorded for later transcription and analyses. Participants will be provided with a \$25 gift card as a token of appreciation.

**Benefits:** This study will provide valuable information for teachers, school administration and parents in that it will provide insight into educator's and administrator's experiences with SEL initiatives. Additionally, the findings of the proposed study may be beneficial to policy makers, as findings may shed light on ways to better support schools in their SEL implementation and areas for improvement for school culture.

The possible implications of the proposed research include assisting educators and policy makers in developing and understanding SEL school culture/climate to help create a more peaceful and caring educational environment for students and staff.

**Risks:** While there are no known or anticipated risks associated with participation in this study, it is possible some participants may experience some emotional stress or be embarrassed or worried about their responses. Please be assured that all responses will be kept confidential, and no identifying information will be kept.

**Confidentiality and anonymity:** The information you will share will remain strictly confidential. The interview contents will be used only for the above-mentioned research project, to help understand how mental health and SEL initiatives are enacted and evolves. Your confidentiality will be protected as recordings and transcripts will be password protected and only accessible to Heather Woods and J. David Smith. In order to minimize the risk of security breaches and to help ensure your confidentiality we recommend that you use standard safety measures such as signing out of your account, closing your browser and locking your screen or device when you are no longer using them / when you have completed the study.

**Anonymity** will be protected in the following manner: names and the organization will be protected using pseudonyms in all publications. However, roles (e.g., school staff, principal, Superintendent) will be affiliated with the pseudonym, as this information is relevant for understanding the processes involved in SEL.

**Conservation of data:** The data collected recordings and transcripts will be kept in a secure manner. Digital copies will be kept on an encrypted and password protected hard drive, while paper copies will be kept in a locked filing cabinet in the Student Investigators office. Data will be kept for a period of five years, following the final publication of to arise from the data, at which time they will be destroyed.

**Compensation:** By participating in the interview, you are eligible to receive a \$25 gift card to Amazon. If you choose to withdraw from the study after starting the interview, you will still receive this compensation.

**Voluntary Participation:** You are under no obligation to participate and if you choose to participate, you can withdraw from the study at any time and/or refuse to answer any questions, without suffering any negative consequences.

**Acceptance:** I, \_\_\_\_\_ (*Name of participant*), agree to participate in the above research study conducted by Heather Woods, under the supervision of J. David Smith of the Faculty of Education at the University of Ottawa.

If you have any questions about the study, you may contact the researcher or her supervisor.

If you have any questions regarding the ethical conduct of this study, you may contact the Protocol Officer for Ethics in Research, University of Ottawa, Tabaret Hall, 550 Cumberland Street, Room 154, Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5  
Tel.: (613) 562-5387  
Email: [ethics@uottawa.ca](mailto:ethics@uottawa.ca)

Participant's signature:

(*Signature*)

Date: (*Date*)

Researcher's signature:

(*Signature*)

Date: (*Date*)

*PLEASE PRINT A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS*