

Survey Consent Form

The Columbia Basin-Boundary Non-Profit Social Sector: Exploring Capacity, Innovation and Collaboration



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The *Columbia Basin-Boundary Non-profit Social Sector* research project will explore key characteristics, financial and human resources, organizational capacity, and social innovation in the Columbia Basin-Boundary non-profit social sector. The research is a critical first step towards enabling evidence-based decision-making by our regions' colleges and Columbia Basin Trust in efforts related to strengthening this important sector. The research will provide individual non-profits and the region as a whole with benchmark data against which to compare experiences and characteristics. In addition, the research will lead to further exploration of the collaborative networks and examples of innovation in the region's non-profit social sector.

This survey collects data related to your non-profit organization, including:

- Key characteristics (such as name of organization, location, year established etc)
- Financial resources (such as total revenue and revenue by source)
- Human resources (such as number of staff and volunteers)
- Organizational capacity and challenges (such as planning and development, funding, and human resource needs)

Survey Monkey is the online tool that will be used to collect survey responses. This online survey company is located in the USA and as such is subject to US laws; in particular, the US Patriot Act which allows authorities access to the records of internet service providers. This survey asks for the name of your organization and your email address if you choose to enter to win a draw prize. This information could be used to identify you. The websurvey company servers record incoming IP addresses of the computer that you use to access the survey but no connection is made between your data and your computer's IP address. If you choose to participate in the survey, you understand that your responses to the survey questions will be stored and accessed in the USA. The security and privacy policy for the websurvey company can be found at the following link: http://www.surveymonkey.com/Monkey_Privacy.aspx. Your information as it is transmitted over the Internet will be protected by an enhanced security mechanism (SSL – Secure Sockets Layer encryption). The information you provide through the survey will be kept confidential, and your data will be downloaded and deleted from the Survey Monkey password protected account within four weeks of the survey submission deadline.

There are no risks to participating in this research. Participation in this research will benefit the social sector overall, providing insight into the baseline conditions of the sector and organizational network, and may highlight opportunities for being more effective and collaborative. A main benefit is the advancement of knowledge of the social sector of the region; which may in turn inform future efforts by funders and educational institutions aimed at strengthening the sector. Research results will be shared through reports, presentations and learning forums within the region, as well as possibly at conferences and publications outside the region.

All electronic records from the survey will be kept in a secured environment. The researcher will destroy the raw data after 10 years. Raw data may be used for future longitudinal analysis. You will also be provided with a copy of the research study at your request.

Your participation is completely voluntary and you may refuse to participate or withdraw from the study at any time. The survey will require approximately 15 to 30 minutes to complete. Submitting the online survey indicates your consent to participate in this study.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you have about the study at tmacdonald@selkirk.ca, 250-365-1434. This study has been approved by the Selkirk College Research Ethics Committee. If you have concerns about the study, please contact the Chair of the Research Ethics Committee – Human Participants, Paula Vaananen at pvaananen@selkirk.ca, 250-365-1430.

Sincerely,

Dr. Terri MacDonald (tmacdonald@selkirk.ca)
Regional Innovation Chair,
Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute, Selkirk College