

Understanding how rural regions of British Columbia will be impacted by legalized recreational cannabis is incredibly important for building sustainable and revitalized economies. **I am inviting you to participate in a key informant interview as part of the research project titled “Transitioning to the New Rural Cannabis Economy”**. I am leading this research initiative that will take place in British Columbia over the next couple of years. The research provides an opportunity to explore the challenges and opportunities of legalization and provide valuable information for the future of these regions.

If you have in-depth knowledge about the shadow economy of cannabis in rural BC, I would like to invite you to participate in a key informant interview. The interview will ideally be conducted face to face, but depending on logistics including time and geographic constraints, it can optionally be conducted by phone. The interview consists of fifteen open-ended questions and will take approximately one hour of your time. The interviewer will start by asking a question about your role, moving quickly to your perspective and knowledge about the cannabis economy. Your participation is voluntary and you have the right to withdraw your consent to participate or your responses at any time. Your name and your organization’s/business’ name will not be disclosed in any outputs from the project, such as reports or presentations. However, based on the information you provide, there is a small chance that you or your organization/business could be identified. We are striving to have a large number of individuals complete interviews and will present the information in aggregated ways to mitigate this potential issue. You can view the formal letter of consent <https://ruralbclegalizationstudy.files.wordpress.com/2019/05/3.consent-form-1.pdf> for your information.

Please feel free to review the brief project description <https://ruralbclegalizationstudy.wordpress.com/> that provides further details about the research project. The research is funded through an MITACS Accelerate grant, in partnership with the Community Futures of Central Kootenays.

This project has been reviewed by the Research Ethics Board for compliance with federal guidelines for research involving human participants. If you have questions regarding your rights and welfare as a research participant in this study (REB# 19-01-005) please contact: Director, Research Ethics; University of Guelph; reb@uoguelph.ca; (519) 824-4120 (ext. 56606)

If you are willing to participate and meet with me, the interviewer, please email me indicating your willingness and some suggested dates we can connect. We are hoping that all interviews can be completed by October 2019. If you have any questions or concerns please contact myself via email (tharve01@uoguelph.ca) or phone (250-231-5963).

Sincerely,



Tracey Harvey
PhD Candidate

Ryan Gibson
Supervisor