

From: [Matt McLean](#)
To: [Municipal Hall](#)
Subject: Invitation to Participate in Research Study for Elected Officials
Date: Monday, February 19, 2024 4:12:53 PM

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****Please forward this to all elected officials****

Dear District of Central Saanich Mayor/Councillor,

We are excited to introduce a unique research opportunity for local elected officials. This study is titled "Opportunities and Challenges for Local Elected Officials in British Columbia to Support Community-Based Initiatives." We are looking for local elected officials to participate in our survey and focus groups, and your municipality has been randomly selected.

Project Overview:

The research project will examine the ways in which local elected officials in British Columbia (BC) support community-based initiatives. This work is intended to provide guidance and ideas for elected officials and community-based organizations so they may consider options for providing or garnering local elected official's support. The goals of the project are twofold:

1. To explore the opportunities and challenges that elected officials encounter when supporting community-based initiatives.
2. To identify the approaches that elected officials use to support community-based initiatives in British Columbia.

The research project consists of two phases:

Phase 1: Survey of Local Elected Officials

In the first phase, we will conduct a survey to identify the approaches that local elected officials in British Columbia use to support community-based initiatives. This survey is aimed at gaining insights from elected officials about their experiences, strategies, and challenges in supporting community-based initiatives. The survey should take about 15 minutes to complete and is available here:

[REDACTED]

Phase 2: Focus Groups

Should survey respondents be interested, they can put their name forward to join focus group discussions. These focus groups will dig deeper into the tensions associated with supporting community-based initiatives and explore potential solutions to address these issues. Focus groups will be scheduled for April and be held on zoom at the groups preferred time. They should take about 60 to 90 minutes to complete. Should you be interested in the focus groups, please complete the survey first, and then email Matt McLean at mattmclean@uvic.ca with your name, email address, and municipality.

Benefits of Participation:

By participating, local elected officials will have the opportunity to reflect on and contribute to the

development of strategies and policies that enhance support for community-based initiatives, benefiting their communities directly. Participation is voluntary, and no compensation will be provided.

Risks and Mitigations:

For participants, the primary risk of this project will be reputational risk during the focus group discussions. We understand that local elected officials may find it challenging to share failures or other challenges openly with their peers. However, we want to assure participants that we are taking steps to mitigate this risk. We kindly request all participants to consider any items discussed during the focus group as confidential. Additionally, all data collected will be anonymized in the results to protect participants' privacy and identities.

This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through the University of Victoria Research Ethics Board.

About the Researcher:

The lead researcher, Matt McLean is currently pursuing a Masters of Community Development degree at the University of Victoria. As part of the requirements of his program, he have embarked on this study to explore the dynamics between local elected officials and community-based initiatives. With a background as a former municipal councillor and experience as a leader in the non-profit sector, Matt brings a unique blend of academic rigor and practical insight to this research.

Contact Us:

If you have any questions about the study or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Matt McLean at [REDACTED]. You may also contact the project supervisor Dr. Lynne Siemens at [REDACTED].

How to Participate:

If you are a local elected official or if you could kindly forward this invitation to the elected officials within your municipality, we invite you to participate in our survey. The deadline for participation is March 17, 2024.

Please follow this link to access the survey:

[REDACTED]

	<p>Opportunities and Challenges for Local Elected Officials in British Columbia to Support Community-Based Initiatives</p>
<p>Take this survey powered by surveymonkey.com. Create your own surveys for free.</p>	
<p>www.surveymonkey.ca</p>	

Thank you for your time and assistance, and we look forward to your valuable contributions.

Sincerely,

Matt McLean

Masters of Community Development Student

University of Victoria



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