



INTERGENERATIONAL LIVING: EVALUATION



St. Thomas University

School of Social Work, Fredericton, NB CANADA E3B 5G3

You are being asked to participate in an evaluation of The Ville's Intergenerational Housing project. Before you decide, it is important that you read the following information and ask as many questions as you want so that you are clear what will be asked of you.

What is the evaluation about?

We are seeking to evaluate whether The Ville's Intergenerational Housing project (iGenNB) is a beneficial, effective, and sustainable model of co-housing. **iGenNB and this evaluation are funded by a grant from the Provincial Government of New Brunswick under the Healthy Seniors Pilot Project (HSPP) initiative.** We are interested in the experiences of, and benefits for older adults and students living together as part of this project. We will also be seeking the experiences and ideas of others involved: project workers, steering group members, and community members.

Who is conducting the research?

Dr. Clive Baldwin is leading the evaluation. He is Canada Research Chair in Narrative Studies at St Thomas University (STU). The evaluation has been approved by the Research Ethics Board of STU.

Dr. Andrea Trenholm is a post-doctoral researcher, under Dr Baldwin's supervision, who will take day-to-day responsibility for the evaluation.

Why have I been invited to participate?

You have been invited to participate because you are an older adult or student who are living together as part of the iGenNB project. You do not have to participate in the evaluation – should you decide not to, your standing in the project will not be affected.

If I am interested in participating, what should I do?

If you are interested in participating, please contact Dr. Andrea Trenholm, indicating your interest and asking any questions you might have. You can do this by phone, e-mail, or regular mail:

Dr. Andrea Trenholm
Rm 313, Brian Mulroney Hall
St Thomas University, Fredericton, NB
Canada E3B 5G3
Phone: 506.452.9596 Email: andreat@stu.ca

What does participating in the evaluation entail?

In agreeing to participate in the evaluation you are agreeing to take part in three interviews, each of approximately 1 ½ - 2 hours in length. The first interview will focus on how you came to be interested in the project, your reasons for signing up, and your hopes and fears for the coming year. We will also ask you about your experiences of the recruitment, matching, and practical processes of The Ville. As an older adult, we will also ask you about your daily life, friends, family, activities, interests etc, and for some information about finances, health care etc.

The second interview, approx. 6 months into the project, will give you an opportunity to tell us about your experiences, what you think is working and not working, what changes you think might be beneficial, your daily activities over the last 6 months, and how you think The Ville has responded to any requests or difficulties you might have faced. The third interview will take the same format as the second interview,

but we will ask you, the older adult, again about finances and health care etc.

All interviews will be conducted one-on-one and face-to-face. You can choose to be interviewed at home, at The Ville, or at St Thomas University. You will be asked for your permission for us to audio-record these interviews.

In addition to the interviews we would also like you to keep a diary of what happens over the course of the project. This does not have to be done every day, nor does it have to be very detailed. The purpose of the diary is to help you remember what has happened over the period since the last interview. We do not need to see the diary as part of the evaluation. You, however, might find it helpful when it comes to telling us about all that has happened.

You will also be invited to take part in three review group meetings. These are meetings of people involved with iGenNB, not just older adults and students, and they are an opportunity to share experiences and a chance to think about what would make the project better. These meetings will take approximately 1.5 – 2 hours and will be held at The Ville. Any transport costs will be reimbursed. The review group conversations will be audio-recorded and notes taken of the discussions. While we would very much like for you to attend the review groups, this is not required and you are free not to attend. This will not affect your standing in the iGenNBproject. **You can choose to participate in the interviews, the review group meetings, or both. Participating in one does not stop you from participating in the other. If you choose to participate in both and change your mind, you may also withdraw from one and not the other.**

What will happen to the information I provide?

Interviews and review group discussions will be typed word for word (transcribed) and all information that could identify you (e.g. names, places, dates etc.) will be removed. The information will then be analysed and used in the final evaluation report to The Ville **and the Provincial government**. All information will be edited so as to try and ensure that you cannot be identified. All information will be stored in locked filing cabinets in Dr Baldwin's Centre and/or password

protected computer files. All material will be destroyed after three years following completion of the research (Dec 2024).

Will the information I give be confidential?

Only those directly involved in the evaluation will have access to the information you give us. Transcribers will be required to sign confidentiality agreements. All information will be treated in confidence, unless you told us about another person being harmed or at risk of being harmed or about an unresolved or future crime.

All identifying information will be removed from the information you give us. All personal information eg information about finances, health care contacts etc, will be aggregated so no-one will know these details about you. We will send you copies of the transcripts of your interviews for correction and approval before it is included in the evaluation.

However, please note that the project is very small and you will have met and be meeting others involved in the project over the course of the project. This means that even when we remove names, places, and other identifying information, someone who knows you may recognise your experiences from what you say.

What are the benefits of participating in the evaluation?

While some people find it helpful to talk about their experiences, there will not necessarily be any direct benefits to you individually as a result of participating in the evaluation. The purpose of the evaluation is to help inform The Ville in improving the project for future participants.

What are the risks of participating in the evaluation?

The risks of participating in the research are minimal. It is possible that some people might become upset when recounting particularly difficult experiences. If this happens the interviewer will stop the interview until you are ready to continue or decide not to continue. You will be offered the opportunity to discuss this with the interviewer and the interviewer will help you access other resources if you would like.

While we will not share any information from which you can be directly identified, because of the small number of participants involved in the project, and because you will likely know each other from other meetings and activities to do with the project, it may be possible for someone to identify something you have said or an experience you have had. No personal or sensitive information about you will be disclosed by us.

Can I change my mind? And what will happen if I do?

You are free to withdraw at any stage without having to give a reason. If you decide to withdraw then all your personal information and interview transcripts will be destroyed. Because we will not be transcribing who says what in the review groups, your contribution to those groups cannot be removed once made. You are, of course, free to leave the review group at any time, and you do not have to attend the review groups if you do not wish to.

Will I be able to see the outcomes of the evaluation?

Yes, you can ask to be put on the list to be sent a summary when it is available.

Who do I contact if I have a question or want further information?

Please feel free to contact Dr. Clive Baldwin or Dr. Andrea Trenholm, by letter, telephone, or private STU email.”

Rm 313, Brian Mulroney Hall
St Thomas University, Fredericton, NB
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Phone: 506.452.9596
Email: baldwin@stu.ca
andreat@stu.ca

If you have questions regarding your rights as a participant in this study, you may contact the Vice-Chair of the St. Thomas University Research Ethics Board, reb@stu.ca

If during your participation you have any concerns about the conduct of the research or want to make a complaint, please address these, in

the first instance, with myself. If you are not satisfied with the response, you may contact:

Vice-Chair
Research Ethics Board
reb@stu.ca