

Information Letter / Consent Form

Individual workshop date will be added here

Poetic Forecasts: Using Creative Practices to Anticipate Wellness Challenges and Needs in a Changing Climate

Who is conducting the study?

Dr. Samantha F. Jones

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Supervisor: **Dr. Sarah de Leeuw**

Professor, Northern Medical Program; Adjunct Professor, Health Sciences; Canada Research Chair in Humanities and Health Inequities

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Who is funding this study? This research project is a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship awarded to Dr. Jones and is funded and supported by SSHRC, the University of Northern British Columbia, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

What is this study and why are you being invited to participate? This study will help us learn more about how poetry can be used to make connections between wellness and weather and climate. Themes and stories from participant contributions will be compared with climate change trends and challenges for the workshop regions to anticipate wellness supports that people might need as the climate continues to change. We are inviting you to participate because your unique lived experiences are the foundation that will make this research possible. You can learn more about the project here: <https://healtharts.ca/call-for-participants-poetic-forecasts/>

What will you be asked to do?

You are invited to participate in one community writing workshop (~2.5 hours long), which will include:

- 1) Complete short, anonymous pre- and post-workshop questionnaires (handouts)
- 2) Participate in a basic poetry instruction lesson
- 3) Write original poetry that links climate/weather to lived wellness experiences
- 4) Group discussions including identifying themes to guide data analysis
- 5) Submit your poems to the study (optional, anonymous and fully credited options available)
- 6) Indicate if you are open to an optional follow-up interview (~30-minutes long). Approximately 1-2 participants from each workshop will be selected for a follow-up interview.

If you register for a workshop and decline to participate in the study, you may leave the workshop at anytime. Photographs will be taken in the workshops but will not include faces or other identifying information.

If selected for a follow-up interview, you will be asked questions about your experience using poetry as a tool to make connections and communicate your ideas. Interviews will be conducted and recorded over Microsoft Teams (or in rare cases as a telephone call), and transcribed using Microsoft Teams or in Microsoft OneDrive. Interview transcripts will be anonymized. In addition to submitting your poetry to this study, you may consent to invitations to group creative deliverables like a poetry anthology or an exhibit.

What will happen to your contributions? The workshop questionnaires, discussion notes, researcher reflections or field notes, co-generated themes, interview transcripts, and participant poetry will be used in qualitative data analysis. Themes will be compared with climate change trends and key climate characteristics and challenges to anticipate wellness supports that may be needed as the climate continues to change. Dr. Jones will produce creative work related to the themes and to make meaning from the data. **Data from this study may be used in future research** guided by Dr. Jones that includes related topics and themes centred on climate change and wellness, such as a comparison with results from similar future workshops. Please see the related consent question.

Is there any way that participating in this study could harm you? We do not think there is anything in this study that could harm you. Writing about or discussing lived experiences of wellness and weather and climate change could make you uncomfortable, however you will guide the topics that you write about and explore, and you can take breaks or withdraw at any time if you feel upset and wish to end your participation. If you decide to submit your poetry to this study and wish to have it fully credited with your name, it will be available to the public.

What are the benefits of participating? You will receive a free poetry workshop and enjoy the company of others who wish to explore connections between wellness and the environment. We hope that you feel a sense of community in your workshop, where your stories will be valued. Your participation will contribute to the development of a poetry wellness tool that others may use for personal reflection, education, activism, or patient-centred care, as well as knowledge-building to inform wellness supports in the context of a changing climate.

How will your privacy be maintained? Anonymous data like the workshop questionnaires will be aggregated and analysed as a group. You will have choice to submit your poetry to the study anonymously or with your name. Follow-up interview transcripts will be anonymized and quotes from interviews will be anonymous in study results. Only Dr. Jones and Dr. de Leeuw have access to study data.

Data will be stored securely on an encrypted hard drive, in a locked cabinet, or on a secure data storage service. Anonymized or aggregated data including questionnaires, discussion notes, researcher reflections or field notes, non-identifying photographs, and anonymized interview transcripts will be retained indefinitely. Credited and anonymized poems will be retained indefinitely and will only be used as specified by your consent selections. Consent documentation will be retained indefinitely to honour each participant's selections. Paper copies of workshop questionnaires will be destroyed immediately after digitization, and workshop registration lists and interview recordings will be deleted five years after the study concludes. Contact information for participants who consented to invitations to group creative deliverable opportunities will be retained indefinitely along with their poems.

Will you be paid for taking part in this research study?

- You will not be paid to attend a community writing workshop; however refreshments will be provided, and you will receive a small gift such as a poetry book.
- 1-2 participants per workshop will be invited to participate in a follow-up interview. Participants selected for a follow-up interview will receive an honorarium of \$50 for their time

Participants who complete follow-up interviews will get their honoraria by cheque or direct deposit. Paperwork will be provided to them on or before the date of their interview. Once the paperwork is returned to UNBC and the interview is completed, it will take approximately 3 weeks for payment to be made (note this is an estimate and timing may vary).

Where can you access study results? Results will be reported in publications like academic articles or book chapters, as a poetic wellness tool, and as creative deliverables such as an exhibit or anthology. Free versions or links to deliverables will be posted on the Health Arts Research Center website (<https://healtharts.ca/call-for-participants-poetic-forecasts/>) or partner websites.

There may be opportunity for your poems to be included in group creative deliverables. In this case, you will also receive a copy of the deliverable or a report on the activity electronically through your preferred email.

Questions, Concerns or Complaints about the project If you have questions about what we are asking of you, please contact Dr. Samantha Jones (Samantha.Jones@unbc.ca; 250-960-5993). Dr. Jones's postdoctoral fellowship has a two-year term that ends on August 30, 2027. If you need to connect after this date, you may

contact her supervisor, Dr. Sarah de Leeuw (sarah.deleeuw@unbc.ca; 250-960-5993), or the Health Arts Research Centre general email account (harc@unbc.ca) for assistance in reaching Dr. Jones. If you have any concerns or complaints about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, contact the UNBC Office of Research at 250-960-6735 or by e-mail at reb@unbc.ca.

Participant Consent and Withdrawal

Taking part is voluntary. You have the right to refuse to participate in some or all parts of this study and you may choose to end participation at any time without giving a reason. Submission of anonymous questionnaires and participation in group discussions implies consent for responses to be used in this study and in future research on climate change and wellness guided by Dr. Jones. You may answer all, some, or none of the questionnaires. Aggregated anonymous submissions cannot be revoked.

I understand that if I agree to participate in this study, I may withdraw at any time up until deliverable completion, with no consequences of any kind.

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

Participation options: There are a variety of ways that you can contribute to this research project. Please review the options below to select how you wish to participate.

I agree to participate in this workshop and understand themes/discussions will be used in a study.

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

I agree that the poems I submit in this workshop will be thematically analyzed for research purposes and be discussed in the context of the climate and weather conditions of my workshop geographic location.

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

I agree that the poems I submit at the end of this workshop can be quoted in scholarly publications:

- ☐ Yes, with attribution to me including first and last name
- ☐ Yes, anonymously
- ☐ Do not quote my poems in scholarly publications

Non-identifying photographs will be taken during the workshop. I agree to be photographed with the knowledge that no identifying information including faces and other identifiable features will be included:

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO (desk signs that say “no photographs” are available that can be placed at your workstation)

I agree to be invited to a follow-up interview. If you answer yes, you are free to decline the invitation later. Approximately 1-2 participants per workshop will be selected for a follow-up interview.

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

Future research: Your contributions to this project are important perspectives that could help future research guided by Dr. Jones on climate change and wellness such as comparing or combining data from this study with data from future similar workshops. Note this would be for research purposes only, never for commercial use.

I agree that the poems I submit in this workshop can be used in future research guided by Dr. Jones on climate change and wellness.

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

Group creative deliverable: There may be opportunities to share your poetry in a creative deliverable (e.g., anthology or exhibit). If so, you will be contacted with the opportunity details and an invitation to participate.

I agree to be contacted about group creative deliverable opportunities.

- ☐ YES (If yes, please provide contact email or phone: _____)
- ☐ NO

Participant Consent Signature:

Your signature below indicates that you have received a copy of this consent form for your own records, have read or been described the contents of this letter/form, and have had an opportunity to ask questions about your participation. Your signature indicates that you consent to participate in this study as indicated by the participation options you selected above.

Signature (or note of verbal consent):

Name of Participant (Printed):

Date:
