

**Informed Consent Letter**

Dear Participant,

My name is Shahdin Farsai and I am the principal investigator for a research project entitled, "Understanding the Complex Needs of Children and Youth with FASD in the Lower Mainland", which serves as my thesis project for the Masters in Public Policy program at Simon Fraser University. The goal of research is to better understand the gaps in existing treatment regimes for Aboriginal children affected by FASD in terms of supporting the complex needs of the children and their caregivers. In addition, by identifying what the gaps are, the research also seeks to find out how the needs of the child and caregiver can be adequately met through existing channels of service or by changes to current policy and practice.

As a participant, you will be asked to participate in an interview at a location convenient for you. You will be given an honorarium in the amount of \$20 dollars as appreciation for your time. I will transcribe the interviews and transcriptions will be kept on a USB stick in a locked drawer at my residence along with your contact information, when not in use. I will be the only one with access to them. Your real name will not be used in the research, but instead you will receive a generic name such as 'caregiver' in the transcriptions. Understanding the fact that your comments are on record, you can tell me at any point through out the interview if you wish some comments to not be recorded. I also remind you that your designated key worker helped me in locating participants, thus they may be aware of your potential participation; however, I will not disclose any information about your participation to them or anyone else. In addition, you do not have to answer any of questions during the interview that you do not want to and at any point before, during, and after the interview, if you have changed your mind and do not want to participate, simply inform me and your request will be respected. The anonymized transcriptions will be destroyed on April 28, 2012 and your contact information will be destroyed on April 28, 2010.

The benefits of your participation can lead to the improvement of programs and services for children affected by FASD, as well as further study to elaborate on the findings. There is no outstanding risk in your participation in the study. If there is any outstanding issue or question that I failed to address during the interview, I may or may not contact you; however you may refuse to participate in this follow up. The results of the research may be obtained from myself or they can be accessed from the SFU Library that will keep a copy of the final report. I will notify you when the research is complete and direct you to a copy of the thesis.

I am obliged to inform you that I have not taken any measures to receive permission from the nation and respective band council that your child may belong to in order to conduct this research. I guarantee confidentiality in accordance with the law, which means that the promise to protect confidentiality will be upheld so long as it does not conflict with British Columbian law, which requires that the discovery of child abuse must be reported to the appropriate authorities. If you have any complaints please contact:  
Hal Weinberg, Director, Office of Research Ethics  
Simon Fraser University  
Burnaby, B.C. Canada  
V5A 1S6  
Tel: 778 782 6593

I thank you in advance for your consideration to participate in the study. Please contact me if you have any questions at 778-628-4021 or email me at [sfarsai@gmail.com](mailto:sfarsai@gmail.com).

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Consent Signature:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (please print name), consent to the participation in Shahdin Farsai's research project, entitled, "FASD Among Aboriginal Children and Youth: Understanding the Complex Needs of Children, Youth and their Caregivers" and I agree to and have read the above terms and conditions of my participation in the research.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Research Participant

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Witness