

## Why Participate in Research

As community based research grows to be more prevalent within community organizations, an enhanced knowledge of research principles and ethics has become essential.

Individuals interested in participating in research have particular entitlements to information and protections that can help them decide whether to get involved.

Research is important to us as community members because:

- We need to become the producers of knowledge and play a central role in its discovery;
- Findings from research helps to shape our social policies, attitudes and decisions;
- More Community members, especially those who are often excluded, may benefit from safer participation in social research.

## Get More Information

Tri Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans,

[www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/english/policystatement](http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/english/policystatement)

Canadian Institute for Health Research:  
[www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca](http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca)

Palys and Lowman, 1999,  
"Informed Consent, Confidentiality and the Law: Implications of the Tri Council Policy Statement":

<http://www.sfu.ca/~palys/Conf&Law.html>

PACE Society "Research Ethics: A Guide for Community Organizations"

[www.pace-society.ca](http://www.pace-society.ca)

Under publications section of website



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**PACE Society**



## Tips For Individuals Participating in Community-Based Research

**2005**

PACE Society offers non-judgmental alternatives, counseling, education, advocacy and empowerment to those in susceptible to and transitioning from the survival sex trade.

## ▶ Have You Ever been approached by a researcher?

Ever been Paid for your Life Story?



Ever had Someone Pay you for your Picture?

If You Answered 'YES' to any of these questions Read On!

This Document was created by Sex Workers on PACE Society's Policy Development Team and is intended for all those who have participated in research or are interested in doing so.

Our goal is to make sure individuals are informed about their rights and are able to ask the questions that would reduce personal risks and potential harm.

### What You Should Know

**Research** and evaluation are aimed to increase our knowledge about ourselves as human beings and the world around us;

**Sex workers**, community members living in poverty, those with addiction issues and those living with HIV or HCV are heavily re-searched groups;

**Your lived experiences** are valuable and are sometimes treated as a commodity, be careful how much personal information you share;

**No one can pressure/force** you to participate in research or evaluation; you can withdraw consent at anytime, even after you have been compensated;

You have a **right to Privacy and Confidentiality**

#### Consent Forms:

**Get a copy** of the consent form or information sheet;

**Read carefully**, if you don't understand any part of it, ask for explanation or take to someone you trust to read over and advise you;

**Know what you are consenting to** (activities, expectations);

**Consent forms** don't have to be signed on the spot, **take your time!** Never sign anything you feel uncomfortable with.

**Your consent is time limited**, be sure you know the start and end date of your consent.

### What You Should Ask

Why are you approaching me to participate?

Has your research been **ethically reviewed?** (Who, when )

Who is funding this research and **what's the purpose?**

**Can I be anonymous?**  
Do you limit confidentiality?  
**What supports are in place for me?**

**Will you be collecting sensitive information**

Like: names, date of birth, photos, DNA, blood work or any other identifying information about me?

Will my personal information be protected? How?

Is there any compensation?  
(when will I receive it, is it cash or cheque, is it a gift or is it reportable income)

How long is my consent valid?  
**What will my participation involve?**

What is the researchers' past research experience and how will the researcher benefit personally? How might this benefit me or others like me?



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