



A New Approach to Studying Retention: Following the Professional Journey of Midwives in Canada

Canadian Midwives Information Letter and Consent Form

The research team includes the following individuals:

Co-Principal Investigators:

Dr. Derek Lobb Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, McMaster University

Dr. Isik Zeytinoglu DeGroot School of Business, McMaster University

Co-Investigators:

Dr. Elena Neiterman School of Public Health and Health Systems, University of Waterloo

Dr. Farimah Hakem Zadeh School of Business and Economics, Department of Human Enterprise and Innovation, Thompson Rivers University

Johanna Geraci College of Midwives of Ontario

Research Coordinator:

Jennifer Plenderleith DeGroot School of Business, and Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, McMaster University

Dear Potential Participant;

You are being invited to participate in a study called: **A New Approach to Studying Retention: Following the Professional Journey of Midwives in Canada.** This five-year study is under the leadership of the research team listed above and is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). You are invited to participate in this study because you are currently or have been a midwife in Canada.

WHY IS THIS STUDY BEING DONE?

We are hoping to determine the reasons midwives stay in their profession. We are also interested in your views on provincial policies and practices that may affect your experiences. We want to learn more about your work experience as a practicing midwife in Canada.

WHAT AM I BEING ASKED TO DO?

You are being asked to participate in an online survey that focuses on your experiences practicing midwifery in Canada. The survey will take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN THIS STUDY?

This study will not benefit you directly but we hope it will contribute to a better understanding of why practicing midwives stay or leave the midwifery profession and what factors influence their decision. We are hoping to identify common reasons for midwives leaving the profession. This will assist us in suggesting changes to policies potentially resulting in a greater number of midwives staying in the profession.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF PARTICIPATING IN THIS STUDY?

Risks of participating in this study are minimal. You may feel some discomfort related to some questions being asked, but you can choose to skip any questions you do not want to answer. You can also answer only some of the questions and still remain in the study.

WILL I BE PAID TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY?

If you agree to take part in this study you will have the opportunity to enter a draw for one of three \$50 eGift cards. If you are a winner, your eGift Card will be emailed directly to you.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY PERSONAL INFORMATION?

The researchers will collect your email address, sex and year of birth. Information related to your sex and year of birth will be combined to describe the study participants as a group. Your email address will be used to enter the draw for the eGift Card. We will also be requesting your email address at the end of the survey to offer you information about a follow-up interview, which will focus on your experiences as a midwife in Canada. Any contact information we collect from you will be stored separately in a password-protected file on a password-protected computer in the Research Coordinator's office and will only be linked to your survey by a unique study number. The only people who will have access to both your email address and your unique study number will be Dr. HakemZadeh and the Research Coordinator, Jennifer Plenderleith. Once contact information is no longer needed it will be deleted. Your survey responses will also be stored separately, on a password protected computer at McMaster University. The data will be kept for 10 years and then destroyed. At no time will the information you share be identified by name in the study. Please note that the researchers will not collect or use internet protocol (IP) addresses or other information which could link your participation to your computer or electronic device.

CAN PARTICIPATION END EARLY?

Your participation in the study is voluntary. Your decision of whether or not to be part of the study will not impact your career status in any way. You are free to withdraw from this study at any time without consequence. You may quit the survey at any time by clicking on the exit and clear button at the bottom right of your screen. By choosing to exit the online survey none of your survey responses will be collected or stored. However, once you complete and submit the survey, because of the nature of the survey generator (Lime Survey), it is impossible to remove your responses because we will not know which completed survey is yours.

HOW CAN I GET INFORMATION ABOUT THE STUDY RESULTS?

If you are interested in reading a summary of the study results, they will be available on our study website - www.CanadianMidwiferyStudy.ca. Please copy this information or return to the Letter of Information where the website link can be found. Results will also be published in peer-reviewed journals and a final report displaying our results will be created and posted on our website.

IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STUDY, WHO SHOULD I CALL?

If you have questions about this study, please contact the Research Coordinator, Jennifer Plenderleith, at 905-525-9140 ext.20089, info@CanadianMidwiferyStudy.ca or Dr. Derek Lobb, McMaster University 905-525-9140 ext.22482.

This study has been reviewed by the Hamilton Integrated Research Ethics Board (HIREB). The HIREB is responsible for ensuring that participants are informed of the risks associated with the research, and that participants are free to decide if participation is right for them. If you have any questions about your rights as a participant, please call the Office of the Chair, Hamilton Integrated Research Ethics Board at 905-521-2100 ext.42013.