

## Participant Consent Form Community Conversations

### Project Title:

Community Energy Transition in Northern British Columbia: Regional Energy Dialogues

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*Accelerating Community Energy Transformation*

### *Purpose*

The purpose of this project is to coordinate community conversations and regional workshops across northern BC, with the aim of identifying community interests and needs in support of energy transition. It places communities at the centre of transition planning and involves opportunities to collectively identify place-based knowledge leading to energy initiatives and investments. The project will gather and mobilize research across three phases: 1) needs and gaps identification through community and regional-level dialogues; 2) support for targeted and community-identified capacity building initiatives; and 3) formalize and embed capacity for innovation in the region.

### *Participant Selection & Involvement*

You are invited to participate in this study because you are interested in energy issues in your community and northern BC, in a personal and/or professional capacity. Your voluntary participation involves attending a community-level conversation (not longer than 3 hours duration) and/or a regional energy workshop (anticipated to be a full day in duration). Engagements will involve various methods (e.g., structured/semi-structured discussions, design charts, brainstorming, etc.).

### *Participant Consent*

**By participating in the community conversation or workshop, you are providing your consent to have your comments audio-recorded and/or recorded via written and visual materials.**

If you wish to have your comments excluded from the research, you can tell this to any member of the Research Team before the session begins. You can also state this before you speak and

your comments will then be removed from transcripts, and/or refrain from contributing to any written materials. Please note that we will not be able to remove your comments once the session is over because we will not be able to link you to your comments.

If a participant is younger than 19 years old, the consent of their guardian is requested.

#### *Risks & Benefits to Participation*

There is minimal to no risk associated with this study. There may be minimal psychological or social risks associated with participating and speaking in a public setting, but we emphasize that there is no obligation to contribute if there is any discomfort. The Research Team and other participants will know who is present, so participation will not be anonymous.

You may benefit from this project in that it will facilitate community-led efforts to advance energy transitions in response to climate change. By offering their insights, participants increase the potential that their experience, knowledge and values will inform these efforts going forward. The research itself will seek to foreground voices from these rural and remote communities such that energy solutions are more responsive to their situation and needs.

#### *Confidentiality & Data Management*

The research team will try to keep your identity confidential, and your name will not be linked to any of your comments. The Research Team will have access to raw data but have signed Confidentiality Agreements to ensure privacy. The data will be stored on secure, password-protected computers under the management of the Research Team, and on secure university storage systems at UVic and UNBC (OneDrive). Identifying information (e.g., consent forms) will be stored separately from identifying data. Data will be coded and all identifying information will be removed. Information will be actively used for the duration of the project (August 2024 - December 2028). For archival purposes it will be kept for 10 years (to support research continuity) and will then be securely destroyed (e.g., deleting digital files, paper copies shredded).

#### *Use of Data*

Data collected will be shared in several ways. Information from community-level conversations will help to shape workshop design at the regional level. Workshop outcomes will be integrated into a public document for participating communities that will identify common priorities, barriers, and pathways to action. Results will also be shared during a report-back session during the April 2025 NorthCAN summit in Prince George. The research may also be shared in a virtual workshop with ACET researchers, academic articles, op-eds, policy pieces, and conference presentations. Findings may also contribute to other community-oriented knowledge mobilization activities, as determined by community partners.

#### *Participant Withdrawal*

Participation in this study is voluntary. You have the right to refuse to participate and if you decide to take part, you may choose to remove yourself from the study at any time without giving a reason and without any negative impact to you. If you wish to withdraw access to past data, please notify Community Coordinator immediately and all information will be permanently deleted from our research storage system.

#### *Questions & Concerns*

If you have any ethical concerns about this research, please contact the Community Coordinator Sarah Korn by email at [sarah.korn@alumni.unbc.ca](mailto:sarah.korn@alumni.unbc.ca). You may check the ethical approval of this study, or raise any concerns you might have, by contacting the Human Research Ethics Office at the University of Victoria (250-472-4545 or [ethics@uvic.ca](mailto:ethics@uvic.ca)).