

**Title of Study:** Climate Education in Teacher Education (CETE)

**Who is conducting the study?**

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**Who is sponsoring the study?**

The study is being funded by a Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) Fast Track grant.

**What is the purpose of the study?**

We want to learn about how UNBC Teacher Candidates understand climate change and climate education.

You are being invited to take part in this research study because you have important knowledge and experience to share around the topic of *climate education*, based on your experiences as a UNBC **Teacher Candidate**.

This study examines *climate education* via experiences of UNBC Teacher Candidates as they move through the Teacher Education program at UNBC and into their practicums. The research also provides UNBC Teacher Candidates with information and resources around climate education that Teacher Candidates might use in their practice.

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary, and you are in no way obligated to participate in this research. You are free to withdraw from this study at any time. You are also free not to answer any questions that make you feel uncomfortable or participate in any events you do not wish to. Whether or not the Teacher Candidate participates will have no bearing on academic standing.

**What will happen during the study?**

Teacher Candidate participants will be recruited through the UNBC School of Education via announcements and in-person/online information sessions.

Teacher Candidates who consent to participate in the research will be asked to:

- 1) complete an online pre-survey and an online post-survey (10-15 minutes each)
- 2) partake in four 90-minute climate education workshops (in-person or online, one-time)
- 3) share documents from coursework and practicum around climate change education
- 4) join in a focus group, post-practicum, with other participants to discuss climate change education

All data collected from you will be anonymized and data collection will take place between the months of February 2023 to December 2023.

**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. Some of the questions we ask may seem sensitive or personal and might upset you. Many people express anxiety around climate change. The surveys will be anonymous. Remember, you do not have to answer any question if you do not want to and let us know if you have any concerns. We also have provided some resources you may access if you are feeling like you need to talk or seek support.

### **Will being in this study help you in any way? What are the benefits of participating?**

Taking part in this study may help you plan teaching and learning experiences. Participation in this project may support health and wellness for learners, teachers and learning experiences through explorations of climate education. Teaching may become more practical as a result of the study with respect to climate change and its integration into BC's Curriculum. Teaching may develop healthy relationships with First Peoples and land, including relationships with more-than-humans, through listening to considerations of Elders, Indigenous educators and the voices of the land (i.e., forest, river, wind, etc.). In the future, others may benefit from what we learn in this study for teaching and learning experiences to include climate education.

### **How will your privacy be maintained?**

Your privacy in the project is important to us and we shall keep all data confidential and only share out data in anonymous or summarized formats. At any point, you may withdraw from the study, without consequence, and your data will be removed.

Your anonymity will be respected. Information that discloses your identity will not be released without your consent. All data documents will be identified only by code number and through pseudonyms. Data will be kept in a locked filing cabinet or a password protected computer in a locked office. Participants will not be identified by name in any reports of the completed study. For the online surveys, we will utilize the in-house UNBC survey tool (Survey Monkey) that stores its data only in Canada. We will use the artificial intelligence tool called Otter.ai to transcribe audio recordings. While Otter.ai's servers are in the U.S.A., uploaded interview audio files will have all personal data removed from the transcript prior. The audio files will only be held in the server for a limited time and then be permanently deleted.

The information gathered from this study will be kept for 5 years. It will then be securely destroyed [e.g., by shredding paper files, deleting digital files, etc.].

The UNBC Teacher Education program is small, and while we will try to keep participant identities anonymous and will ask the same of all involved in the study, we cannot guarantee that others may disclose information. You may decide to withdraw, with no consequences, at any point, if you feel unable to continue.

### **Will you be paid for your time/ taking part in this research study?**

We will not pay you for the time you take to be in this study. Teacher Candidates participating in **all parts** (pre-survey, 4 workshops, post-survey, focus groups) of the research will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate to a local bookstore.

### **Study Results**

Research study findings will be summarized in two formats: 1) scholarly/technical paper/presentation- this format will include theoretical frameworks, connections to prior research, and future research considerations, and 2) practitioner's report- this format will include summary of findings in relation to curriculum and pedagogy, connections/implications of findings to practice, graphics and images to illustrate findings, and an invitation to get involved in the future. Scholarly research study findings will be published in peer-reviewed academic journals and presented at academic conferences. Practitioner report findings will be shared with participating School Districts as well as teacher conferences around British Columbia (i.e. BCTEN (BC Teacher Educator Network Conference- virtual, annual BC Provincial Professional

Development Day) virtual and in-person across BC. The research team will also extend an invitation to present findings at your school or in your School District. You will be invited to indicate your interest in us to share the findings with you.

### **Questions, Concerns or Complaints about the project**

If you have any questions about what we are asking of you, please contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Hartley Banack, at: [hart.banack@unbc.ca](mailto:hart.banack@unbc.ca) or 250-960-5317.

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](mailto:reb@unbc.ca).

### **Appended List of Support Services for Participants to Access**

Community Counselling Centre  
1811 Victoria St. #206  
Prince George, BC  
V2L 2L6  
Phone: 250-562-6690

The Northern Health Authority:  
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Programs by Community:  
Accessible through the website: <https://www.northernhealth.ca/services/mental-health-substance-use/services-by-community>

The Crisis Prevention, Intervention, and Information Centre for Northern BC:  
2700 Queensway #100  
Prince George, BC  
V2L 1N2  
Northern British Columbia Crisis Line:  
Phone: 250-563-1214  
Toll-free: 1-888-562-1214  
British Columbia Suicide Line:  
Phone: 1-800-SUICIDE or 1-800-784-2433

The Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of BC:  
Mental Health Support Line:  
Toll-free: 310-6789 (no area code needed)

## Climate Education in Teacher Education (CETE)

### Participant Consent and Withdrawal

Taking part in this study is voluntary and entirely up to you. You have the right to refuse to participate in this study. If you decide to take part, you may choose to pull out of the study at any time without giving a reason and without any negative impact on you or on your standing in the School District. The data provided up to the point of withdrawal will also be removed from the study.

By clicking "I consent" below, you indicate your signature and that you have received a copy of this consent form for your own records. Consent will be renewed after one year, if participants wish to continue in the study.

### **CONSENT** (please click ONE response below for each statement)

I have read or been described the information presented in the information letter about the project:  
YES                      NO

I have had the opportunity to ask questions about my involvement in this project and to receive additional details I requested:  
YES                      NO

I understand that if I agree to participate in this project, I may withdraw from the project at any time up until the report completion, with no consequences:  
YES                      NO

I have been given a copy of this form:  
YES                      NO

I agree to be audio recorded:  
YES                      NO

I would like to be informed of the study's findings once the project has been completed:  
YES                      NO

Please check here if you would like to receive a PDF copy of the final report:

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Please provide an email address for participation in the study. **This cannot be a UNBC email address:**

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This email address will also be used to inquire about staying involved in the project over time. Consent will be obtained annually.