**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH STUDY** 

**Title of Project**: Responding to Youth and Cyber-Risk:  Assessing Parents' and Educators' Experiences, Attitudes and Strategies Towards Online Risks Facing Youth

**Sponsor**: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, The University of Calgary and Memorial University

**Purpose of the Study**

This research seeks to explore, through a one-on-one interview with you, ***how educators (i.e., teachers, counselors, principals, etc.) are experiencing and responding to the online risks facing their students.*** We seek to explore *your views* of what online risk means and its relevance to you as an educator. Through an interview with you, we seek to examine:

* Your views and experiences regarding the impact of technology (e.g., access to smart phones, social network sites) on educating students today.
* Your concerns, if any, regarding your students’ online activities today as well as the future.
* Your views and experiences regarding how best cyber-risk and harm should be responded to by yourself, students, parents as well as other educators in your school.
* What strategies you take as an educator that you believe to be most effective in responding to the cyber-risks your students face. Relatedly, your views of the effectiveness of the strategies used by your school to address student online safety and prevention of harm.

PLEASE NOTE that you will NOT be asked direct questions about *personal experiences of online harm related to yourself and/or your students*. Disclosure of such experiences is purely at your discretion. Please see below for further discussion of potential risks involved in participating in this project.

**What Will I Be Asked To Do?**

You will be asked to provide your consent to a one-on-one interview, to be held at a location of your choosing, which will last about 30 to 60 minutes. This is what will happen during the interview:

* The study will be explained, and time will be given to review this consent form
* You will be asked if you understand the project objectives and your role in the interview and agree to take part
* You will be provided a $35 Tim Hortons gift card as a thank you for your time and the knowledge you will be providing as a research participant
* A short survey collecting some demographic information will be completed (see below for details)
* The interview questions will focus on the key objectives listed on the previous page, but the direction of the interview will also be shaped by you – that is, additional questions exploring relevant topics and issues may be asked depending on the answers you provide

With your permission, the interview will be digitally voice recorded (audio only, no video) to make sure what is said is accurately captured. If you prefer, written notes will be taken instead of recording the interview – please see below for discussion of your rights and confidentiality with respect to participating in this research.

**Are there Risks or Benefits?**

The knowledge gained from this research will inform policies and practices regarding educating today’s ‘digital youth’, and highlight best practices in response to help instill safety and security for children online. In this study, you will be asked to discuss attitudes and experiences related to online risk in the context of school. There are no direct benefits to you based on agreeing to participate in an interview, though you may find the interview makes you more aware of some of your own views and actions in relation to responding to online risks facing students. You may find discussing certain experiences, which may include online harm experienced by yourself and/or your students, uncomfortable or upsetting. Direct questions about such experiences will not be asked. Also, interviews will be held at a time and location you feel provides confidentiality and security (in cooperation with your school, private meeting times will be scheduled, or alternative arrangements may be made). You have the right not to answer any questions or disclose information you are not comfortable disclosing for any reason. Resources will be provided to you (see below) to contact if you experience any distress related to your participation in this project.

An honorarium in the form of a $35 Tim Hortons gift card will be provided to you before the interview, as thanks for your time and commitment to this research.

**Questions/Concerns**

If you have any further questions or desire clarification regarding this research, or are interested in study findings once this research is completed, please contact:

In Calgary:

Dr. Michael Adorjan

Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts

University of Calgary

(403) 220-5982, madorjan@ucalgary.ca

In St. John’s and surrounding area:

Dr. Rose Ricciardelli

Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts

Memorial University of Newfoundland

(709) 864-7446, rricciardell@mun.ca

If you have any concerns about the way you are treated as a participant, or your rights as a research participant, please contact the University of Calgary’s Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board: (403) 220-4283 / (403) 220-6289, cfreb@ucalgary.ca.

Further resources and information about cyber-risk involving young persons, and resources for educators, may be found at:

[www.cybertip.ca](http://www.cybertip.ca)

<http://mediasmarts.ca/>

Online resources on cyberbullying and other cyber-risks are also provided by the Calgary Police Service and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police:

<http://www.calgary.ca/cps/Pages/Community-programs-and-resources/Crime-prevention/Cyberbullying.aspx>

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cycp-cpcj/bull-inti/bullres-resinti-eng.htm>

Resources and information related to cyberbullying and law specific to Newfoundland and Labrador may be found here:

<https://www.prevnet.ca/resources/policy-and-legislation/newfoundland-and-labrador/for-parents>

A copy of this consent form will be provided to you to keep for your records and reference. The investigator will also keep a copy of the consent form.