**Information and Consent Form**

Addressing Feelings of Guilt in Residential School Heritage Interpretation

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| Director of Research  | Dr. Katherine Cook, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Montreal. |

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You are invited to participate in a research project. Before accepting, please take the time to read this document outlining the nature of the project and your rights as a participant. Please feel free to ask any questions you may have to the person presenting this document.

1. **INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS**
2. **Research Objectives**

Shame and guilt are common reactions to learning about difficult history. Unfortunately, there is little guidance on how these emotions can be handled in museological literature. This research aims to create a practical model to determine how guilt and shame can be addressed by heritage institutions to support visitors in their learning endeavours and utilize its pro-social nature to promote understanding and reconciliation.

This project seeks to answer the following questions:

* How are shame and guilt currently addressed in Canadian museums and heritage institutions?
* How can heritage institutions assist visitors in managing shame and guilt in a manner which encourages beneficial action and empathy?
* How do the negative emotions evoked by an increasing awareness of difficult heritage impact descendant immigrant and settler communities’ understanding of contemporary social issues?

The results of this research will be published in a Doctoral thesis and academic publications. In addition, this research will result in a free and accessible tool for wider use by Canadian heritage institutions.

To support the development of this research, we aim to gather information regarding current interpretive practices from 20 Canadian museums or heritage institutions.

1. **Research Participation**

You have been asked to participate as a professional member of staff at a Canadian museum or heritage institution.

Your participation in this project is completely voluntary. If you agree, your participation will require you:

1. *Complete a questionnaire at your leisure. The questionnaire will include questions regarding your museum’s strategies regarding shame and guilt in heritage interpretation. The data collected from will also be used to analyse trends in current museum practice. It will take approximately 20-minutes to complete.*

As part of the project, information about you will be collected. This information will be necessary to meet the scientific objectives of the research.

1. **Advantages and Benefits**

There is no particular benefit to participating in this project. However, you will contribute to a better understanding of affective museum practice in Canada.

1. **Risks and Potential Harms**

To our knowledge, there are no specific risks associated with your participation in this project. However, due to upsetting nature of the subject matter, it is possible that some questions may provoke uncomfortable thoughts. You may refuse to answer a question at any time or even leave the session. If necessary, the researcher will be able to refer you to a resource person to help you overcome these inconveniences and provide you with a list of local resources.

Although this project does not seek to elicit feelings of guilt or shame in participants, they will be asked to consider and reflect on their pre-existing experiences and those of others with these emotions. Feelings of guilt and shame can be unpleasant and cause discomfort or, at the extreme, emotional distress.

While the data gathered from this questionnaire will either be anonymous or refer to the name of your institution or museum, it is possible that due to the size of your institution you may be identified by other professional in the heritage sector or by your employers. If you wish to guarantee your anonymity or fear negative consequences for participating, please refrain from participating.

1. **Confidentiality and Anonymity**

The researcher will take the necessary steps to ensure that the personal information you provide remains confidential. These steps include the following:

* The signed information and consent forms and the research file will remain confidential from the time of data collection. At no time will your identity be public.
* The research file will include questionnaires, video recordings and their transcripts.
* All data will be kept in a locked filing cabinet or stored on the student researcher’s secure computer.
* When publishing the results of this data, the researcher will privilege anonymized quotations, excluding the name of the institution, where possible.
* Where applicable, the data will be identified by the name of the institution or museum rather than the name of the respondent.

**Retention of Research Records**

According to the University of Montreal's Document Retention Schedule, research files must be kept for a minimum of 7 years after the end of the project. Documents may be used to validate methodology, authenticate the approach, demonstrate adherence to the research protocol and may be used in a subsequent research project.

The research information and data will be kept in a locked filing cabinet and room. It will be destroyed 7 years after the end of the project. Only non-identifying data will be kept after this period.

1. **Compensation**

You will not be compensated for your participation.

1. **Communication of Research Results**

We would also be pleased to share the results of the research with you. For this purpose, you can provide us with an email address so that we can send you a summary of the main research results. Your email address will be recorded in a document separate from the research data.

1. **Declaration of Conflict of Interests**

The researchers have no known conflict of interests regarding this project.

1. **Right to Withdraw**

Your participation in this project is entirely voluntary and you may withdraw from the research at any time upon verbal or written notice. You do not have to justify your decision and there are no consequences to revoking your consent.

If you decide to withdraw from the research, please contact the student researcher at the phone number or email address listed below.

At your request, all personal information and data already collected can be destroyed. However, once the publication process is initiated, it will not be possible to destroy the analyses and results of your data.

1. **Use of Research Data**

The research data will be used only for the purposes of this research. However, with your consent, the information you provide may be used in other research. These projects will be under the responsibility of the student researcher and will be authorized by a research ethics board. The researcher agrees to maintain and protect the confidentiality of your data under the conditions outlined in this form. A consent form is provided at the end of this form.

1. **DECLARATION OF PARTICIPANT**
* I acknowledge that the nature of my participation in the research has been clearly explained to me.
* I understand that I may take my time to think about giving my consent to participate in the research under the conditions stated in this form.
* I may ask questions of the researcher and demand satisfactory answers.
* I understand that by participating in this research project, I am not waiving any of my rights or releasing the researcher from any responsibilities.

**Participant Agreement**

By signing this form, I agree to respect the confidentiality of the participants and of the information shared during the group interviews.

1. **REQUEST FOR CONSENT**

*I have read this information and consent form and by signing, I agree to participate in the research activities outlined in the "Participation in Research" section.*

* I agree to be contacted again to receive a summary of the research findings.

[ ] Yes. [ ] No

If yes, I wish to be contacted by the researcher at the following email address:

**Secondary Use of Data**

I consent to the researcher using, or allowing students under the researcher's direction to use, the anonymized data for other research projects of a similar nature, contingent upon their ethical approval and under the same principles of confidentiality and protection of information.

[ ]  Yes [ ] No

Signature of Participant :       Date :

First Name :       Last Name :

1. **COMMITMENT OF THE STUDENT RESEARCHER**
* I have explained to the participant the terms of their participation in the research project.
* I have answered the questions asked to the best of my knowledge and have ensured the participant's understanding.
* I (along with my supervisor) agree to abide by what has been agreed upon in this information and consent form.
* I certify that I will provide the participant with a signed and dated copy of this form.

Signature (Student Researcher: Date : 14/11/2022

First Name : Sierra Last Name : McKinney

1. **CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you have any questions about the study, or if you wish to withdraw from the research, please contact Sierra McKinney at phone number 250-880-4500 or email address sierra.mckinney@umontreal.ca

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, or about the responsibilities of researchers, you can contact the Research Ethics Board - Society and Culture by email at cersc@umontreal.ca or the board's advisor by phone at 514 343-6111 ext. 5925 or consult the website http://recherche.umontreal.ca/participants.

Any complaint regarding your participation in this research can be addressed to the Ombudsman of the Université de Montréal by calling 514 343-2100 or by emailing ombudsman@umontreal.ca (the Ombudsman accepts collect calls).

**Give a signed copy to the participant.**