

# LOYALIST COLLEGE

## Research Study Information Letter

**Title of Study:** Loyalist College Fights Labour Trafficking

### **Principal Investigator**

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As a student, staff, or faculty member of the Loyalist College community you are invited to participate in a study conducted by Loyalist College's Protection, Security and Investigation, Police Foundations, and Custom Border services programs, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration Training and Skills Development.

### **Purpose of Study**

The purpose of this study is to determine the degree of labour trafficking and exploitation within the Loyalist College community through a survey. The results from this study will inform the creation and provision of educational opportunities and reporting procedures for labour trafficking of potential victims, witnesses and/or allies within the community.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD) approached Loyalist College in search of innovative ways to educate the community on the topic of labour trafficking, as well as provide supports for individuals who may have experienced or witnessed this phenomenon.

Pursuing this study promotes Loyalist College student engagement and learning, completes a needs assessment, and provides resources to aid with a social issue in our community. This study will allow students within the Protection, Security and Investigation, Police Foundations, and Customs Border Services programs to learn about labour trafficking and complete relevant certifications in these areas. This study will also inform a process for Loyalist College and the MLITSD to identify education and service needs to provide support to community members who have experienced or witnessed this phenomenon.

### **Length of Study**

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This study is scheduled to be begin in April 2023. Participants in this study are asked to complete an online survey, which will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete. The survey will be open until Friday April 21, 2023.

## **Study Procedures**

Participants are asked to read this information letter thoroughly and proceed to the survey invitation link. Participants will be asked to provide informed consent prior to completing the survey. This will be done by selecting a box which grants informed consent. Once consent has been provided, participants are asked to complete the multiple-choice questions within the survey.

## **Risks and Benefits**

It is possible that participants will encounter questions that may lead them to recall upsetting or emotionally triggering events or experiences. The magnitude of harm that participants are likely to encounter has been assessed as minimal and the probability that participants will encounter harm is assessed as low. Participants are asked to be aware of this psychological risk before participating in the survey.

Participants may also experience benefits from this survey such as an increased awareness of labour trafficking and exploitation, employee rights, and an understanding of community support available in this field. Potential benefits to the community and society at large include a more comprehensive understanding of the degree of labour trafficking within the Loyalist College community, as well as supports currently available and service needs. The knowledge gained from this study could inform the transformation and/or development of supports and resources within Loyalist College and local region, and point to any needs for further assessment and assistance at a ministry level.

## **Voluntary Participation**

Participants may choose to leave this study at any point by withdrawing from the survey. Participants have the ability to exit the online survey at any point by closing the survey window or browser. Any collected responses prior to withdrawal will be deleted and not included in the study.

## **Participant Confidentiality & Data Security**

Participant information will be kept confidential throughout the data collection, analysis, and storage processes. All collected data will be immediately anonymized, meaning any identifying information will be removed from data upon collection. Study data will be recorded electronically through Microsoft Forms and stored within a secure Loyalist College network file system. Only authorized members of the research team will have access to data while it is being retained. Anonymized study data will be securely stored within the Loyalist College network file for a period of 7 years, as per the recommended minimum data retention period. After the period of 7 years, study data will be permanently deleted.

## **Compensation for Participation**

Participants will not be provided with financial or other compensation to participate in this study.

## **Dissemination and Publications**

Following participation in this project, participants will be provided with a more complete description of the purpose of the research and study results through a written report as well as a

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possible invitation to educational sessions. A final report will be developed and shared, which will summarize the research study and findings. Reports will be made available through indirect means, such as sharing by Loyalist College Marketing and Communications through social media, websites, and anonymous email. Final reports are planned to be available when this study is concluded in June 2023. Education sessions will be developed using study data, in collaboration with information from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, to provide a greater understanding of labour trafficking within the Loyalist College Community and systems of available community support. Education sessions will be offered at the Loyalist College campus in the spring of 2023. Education sessions will also be advertised through indirect means with the assistance of Loyalist College Marketing and Communications.

## **Contact Information**

If there are concerns regarding this study that participants would like to address, please contact the Principal Investigator directly via email. The Research Ethics Board Coordinator, listed below, may also be contacted to register concerns or important matters related to this study.

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