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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):



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University
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Health Canada

In partnership with:



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

Your child's school (Centennial Secondary School) has been chosen to take part in the 2010–2011 Youth Smoking Survey (YSS).

The survey will ask students to complete a set of **private** and **anonymous** questions about smoking. Students will seal their survey answers in an envelope. Their answers will help the research team gather details about youth smoking in Canada.

The Youth Smoking Survey is approved by both the school board and school. The survey is being done on behalf of Health Canada by the University of British Columbia and the University of Victoria.

Please read the details below and decide if you will agree to have your child complete the survey.

Details about the Youth Smoking Survey (YSS)

- The YSS is a survey of students in Grades 6 to 12 (Grade 6 to Secondary V in Québec).
- The survey takes 30 to 40 minutes to complete. Students will complete the survey in a classroom with a teacher there to supervise, on a date chosen by the school.
- The survey asks students questions about what they think and feel about smoking, and about their smoking habits at school and after school.
- For students in Grades 7 to 12, the survey also asks questions about alcohol and drug use.
- You or your child can refuse to take part in the survey at any time, with no penalty. Students will not be part of the survey if a parent decides they should not do so OR if the student does not agree to take part.
- Although we do not anticipate any risks from participation in this study, you should be aware that taking part in the survey may expose your son or daughter to information on topics which are new.
- You can see a copy of the survey questions in the school's main office or on the YSS website at www.yss.uwaterloo.ca.

The survey and its results are private

Your child's name will not appear on the sheet of questions they complete. This means that your child's name cannot be linked in any way with the results of the survey. Students' answers are completely private and **will not** be given to teachers, the school, or anyone else.

The results of the survey will only be reported in group form. The school will receive a comprehensive and easy-to-read *School Smoking Profile with Summaries* that includes your school's key results, action items and resources for administrators, teachers, parents and students.

The data we gather from the survey will be stored at the University of Waterloo for 7 years. Only research staff will have access to the written surveys. Electronic data will be kept for an unknown period of time and will be available to the public.

Ethics

This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through the Office of Research Ethics at the University of Waterloo. However, the final decision about participation is yours and your child's. If you (or your child) have any comments or concerns resulting from participation in this study, please contact Dr. Susan Sykes, Director, Office of Research Ethics, at (519) 888-4567 ext. 36005 or by email at ssykes@uwaterloo.ca. You may also verify 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 at 250-472-4545 or ethics@uvic.ca.

Permission

You and your son or daughter are the only ones who will decide whether to be part of the Youth Smoking Survey, or not. If your child is 19 or older, they have the legal right to decide about the survey on their own.

If you do **NOT** want your child or children to complete the Youth Smoking Survey, or if you have any questions about the survey, please contact Amy Cox by phone at 1-877-977-8924. If you leave a phone message, please include:

- your child or children's name(s)
- your child or children's grade
- the name of their school, and
- the name of their teacher.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. To view further project details, the student questionnaire and sample *School Profile on Smoking*, visit the YSS on the web at www.yss.uwaterloo.ca or contact Amy Cox at 1-877-977-8924, email: amygc@uvic.ca.

Sincerely,



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