



## Participant Information and Consent form for a Research Project

### Technology and Participation in Policy Participant Information

This research project explores the role of technologies such as the internet in public policy consultation, engagement and participation opportunities.

#### **What will I be asked to do?**

- Participation in this research involves activities such as answering questions and completing a small activity using a map, which relates to technology and participation in policy – this is estimated to take approximately 1 hour of your time

#### **Who are the participants in this project?**

- Participants are anticipated to be Canadian residents who are able to communicate in English and who are over the age of 18
- The number of participants is expected to range from 10-30 individuals
- *Participation is voluntary and you may withdraw without penalty or choose to skip any parts of the research which you are uncomfortable with*
- This research may involve video, audio or photographic recording, you can select how the recordings are used and shared by the researchers or decline the use of any of the technologies

#### **How are anonymity and confidentiality addresses?**

- Materials collected will be stored and accessed by the researchers in secure environments (i.e. on password protected computers, locked filing cabinets)
- You can select how you would like to be referred to in any materials which are produced out of this research (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> name, full name, pseudonym)
- The researchers will securely archive the data from this project within 5 years of the final publication or presentation (i.e. on DVDs in a locked filing cabinet)

#### **How will this research be shared?**

- Data including quotes and images may be used in academic or community oriented papers, articles or presentations

- With permission, some materials from this project may be shared on the internet through the Metronauts site [www.metronauts.ca](http://www.metronauts.ca) or in academic publications; see also the researcher's site [www.karenlouisesmith.net](http://www.karenlouisesmith.net) for updates

#### **What are the risks/benefits?**

- Risks are perceived to be minimal: they could however include embarrassment when answering questions
- Benefits may include that you contribute to enhanced understandings of citizen participation in policy

#### **Is there any compensation for my time?**

- No compensation will be provided

#### **Who can I contact for more information**

- If you have any concerns regarding this project you can contact the researcher at: (416) 946-5366 or [karen.louise.smith@utoronto.ca](mailto:karen.louise.smith@utoronto.ca) you can also contact Karen's professor Dr. Andrew Clement at 416-978-3111 [andrew.clement@utoronto.ca](mailto:andrew.clement@utoronto.ca)
- Regarding your rights as a participant in research you may also contact: the Ethics Review Office, 416-946-3273 or [ethics.review@utoronto.ca](mailto:ethics.review@utoronto.ca)

#### **How can I withdraw from the research?**

- If you wish to withdraw from this project, please let Karen Smith know as soon as possible. Withdrawing may not be possible if the results have been published or shared publicly.

## **Participant Consent**

If you would voluntarily like to be involved in the Technology and Participation in Policy project, please review the following and provide your consent with your signature:

With my signature, I understand:

- The participant information discussed in the previous section (i.e. what the research involves and what my rights are as a participant)
- That the research is voluntary and I may quit participating at any point or refuse any questions or sections I am uncomfortable with
- That the researcher will record my voice and use of a map using audio-video technologies, I should let the researcher know if there is any technology I am uncomfortable with and wish to decline permission for its use.

In sharing research materials (including quotes, video footage, or information about me) the researcher should (please 'X' one choice):

- Share my first name only
- Share my full name
- Use a pseudonym  
(Please specify preference: \_\_\_\_\_)

Locations I give the researcher permission to display the video footage or still images from my participation include (please 'X' all that apply):

- At a public meeting (i.e. Metronauts or Metrolinx transportation policy event)
- At an academic meeting or for a scholarly presentation
- In a scholarly publication
- On the Metronauts website (all material on the Metronauts website is shared under the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share-Alike license)
- None of the above. (I do not want the researcher to display video footage or images in any manner)

The researcher may share video footage or photos (please 'X' one choice):

- Do not show my face
- Show my face
- None of the above. (I do not want the researcher to display video footage or images in any manner)

**Name [please print]:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Researcher:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_