



LETTER OF INVITATION

The CANARY Study: Cannabis Access Regulations Study

We would like to invite you to take part in a study that is examining the impact of changes to Health Canada's medical cannabis program. **Health Canada is implementing the *Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulations*, and we want to learn how individuals with Arthritis, Cancer, Chronic Pain and HIV/AIDS - those who use medical cannabis and who do not use medical cannabis - are affected by these regulations.**

The study is being done by researchers at the University of British Columbia in collaboration with the British Columbia Ministry of Health, Canadian Consortium for the Investigation of Cannabinoids, Canadian AIDS Society, the Canadian Medical Association, the Canadian Cancer Society, the British Columbia Cancer Agency the Canadian Association of Medical Cannabis Dispensaries, Action Atlantic, the Chronic Pain Association of Canada, and the Canadian Pain Coalition.

If you decide to take part in this study, you will be asked to fill out a maximum of four (4) on-line surveys that will take about 30 minutes each to complete (spaced 3-6 months apart over a 15-month time period). We may also contact you, with your permission, to participate in three (3) separate telephone interviews that will each last 30 minutes. Several prize draws will be offered to those who take part in all four surveys as well as those individuals who complete the three interviews. **The first survey must be completed by April 1, 2014.**

We would like to stress that your participation in this study is voluntary, that you may withdraw from the study at any time, and that your decision to participate or not will in no way affect your status in Health Canada's Marihuana Medical Access Program or your health care in general. Any information that you provide will be kept confidential and no one but the researchers will have access to the information. Your name will not be used in any reports of the research and only the Principal Investigator and research staff will have access to your contact information.

For more information about the study, please visit <http://canarystudy.ca> or contact Dr. Lynda Balneaves (Principal Investigator) at lynda.balneaves@nursing.ubc.ca or 604-822-7679. We hope that you will consider helping us with this study, which will provide valuable information about how medical cannabis is used and regulated in Canada.

Sincerely,

Lynda G. Balneaves, RN, PhD
Associate Professor, UBC School of Nursing