**    **

**Mental Health, Climate Change Events and COVID-19**

**Invitation to Participate in Community Survey (Email Invitation)**

We would like to invite you to take part in a community survey about the impacts of climate change events such as wildfires, flooding, and smoke and COVID-19 on the mental health of people living in a rural community in BC. We will also work with the community to create actions to deal with the impacts of climate change events and COVID-19 on mental health. The study will take part primarily in 3 BC rural communities – Keremeos, Ashcroft, and Burns Lake. However, anyone from a rural community in BC can participate.

You can participate if you:

* Are 15 years of age and over
* Live, work or go to school in your community or the surrounding area
* Able to speak English and understand the information on the consent form (attached)

There are 2 parts to the survey:

* Part 1 – questions about yourself and your experiences with mental health, climate change events, and COVID-19 [*https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\_etFlMuUCZXjSklL*](https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_etFlMuUCZXjSklL)
* Part 2 - it also includes a second part that provides the opportunity to upload such items as photos, drawings, stories, poems, and collages related to climate change events, COVID-19 and mental health (optional).

The data collected from the survey will be summarized and used to discuss the impacts on mental health of climate change events and COVID-19 and to create community actions together at a community dialogue session. The copy of the consent for the survey is included as part of the survey in the link above.

Talking about mental health and wellbeing may be sensitive for some and may bring up some unpleasant past experiences. You do not have to answer any question if you do not want to. Questions will be asked about COVID-19; you may skip these questions if you wish. We will provide a list of resources for you to contact following the session if you wish.

If you have questions about the survey or would like to receive more information, please contact Nelly Oelke or Reagan Zinck (contact information is listed below).

We will follow-up with you via telephone to provide further information on this study. We would also ask you to circulate this invitation with the survey links broadly to your networks in your community.

Regards,

Nelly D. Oelke

Associate Professor, School of Nursing, University of British Columbia, Okanagan

Telephone: 250-807-9880 or email: nelly.oelke@ubc.ca

Reagan Zinck

Project Coordinator, Psychology, University of British Columbia, Okanagan

Telephone: 250-807-9948 or email: reagszed@mail.ubc.ca