

March 30, 2020

Dear JIBC Students, Partners, Faculty, and Staff

This message is sent on behalf of the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) Research Ethics Board. It is pertinent to any/all students, partners, faculty, and staff engaging in research activities that involve human participants, currently have ethics review approved by the JIBC Research Ethics Board, or are in the process of submitting an application for ethics review.

All JIBC research and projects that collect data through physical and/or social interaction such as focus groups and face-to-face interviews must be restructured and use other data gathering methods to protect the health and safety of all Canadians.

JIBC continues to adapt to the COVID-19 situation and the challenges of conducting research while maintaining the health and safety of research participants, students, staff, faculty, and the general public. Currently, there are physical and social distancing measures in place for the safety of all Canadians, which is also impacting research.

The JIBC Research Ethics Board has [policies and procedures](#) in place for emergencies. The **Institutional Emergency Research Ethics Preparedness Plan** and **Application of Research Ethics Review Policy and Procedures in Publicly Declared Emergencies**, however the policies and procedures in Procedure 004 and Policy 3404 do not fully address the circumstances of the current unique situation. Therefore, the JIBC Research Ethics Board will implement, temporarily, the following measures until this crisis has passed.

### **Approved Ethical Reviews**

If you have an approved ethical review request already in place that involves in-person research with research participants, you must provide a revised data gathering plan to the JIBC Research Ethics Board for approval. This plan must describe the measures being taken to protect the health and safety of those involved in the research, including participants and researchers. You cannot proceed with data gathering until the plan has been received and approved.

If you are a student involved in gathering data through in-person research, you must contact your supervisor to discuss alternative methods such as on-line surveys, emails, telephone, video-conferencing. Then, through your supervisor, send the agreed upon change to the JIBC Research Ethics Board for review and approval.

### **Preparing a New Ethical Review**

The JIBC Research Ethics Board will continue to review new research applications and work with applicants to responsibly support research involving human participants. Any new applications should include an action plan that implements current social and physical distancing measures.

For more information please contact the JIBC Research Ethics Board at [appliedresearch@jibc.ca](mailto:appliedresearch@jibc.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darren Blackburn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Darren Blackburn

Chair, JIBC Research Ethics Board

