Indigenous Youth Statistics Mentorship Program

INFORMED CONSENT / PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT

All Mentorship Program participants are required to submit a signed copy of the following participant agreement. Participants who do not submit this signed form will not be allowed to attend any in-person programming at the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute (BCCHR), UBC Vancouver, or UBC Okanagan campuses, where many events and workshops will occur.

The participant agreement must be signed by both the participant and a parent/guardian.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact tog@bcchr.ca

I, _____ (name), am participating in the **Indigenous Youth Statistics Mentorship Program** hosted by the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute (BCCHR) Trainee Omics Group (TOG), a part of the Provincial Health Services Authority, at 950 West 28th Avenue in Vancouver, BC from Wednesday, March 18, 2026 to the end of May 2026

Mentorship Program

As a participant, I acknowledge and agree to the terms outlined in this document.

Program Overview

The **Indigenous Youth Statistics Mentorship Program** is hosted by the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute (BCCHR) in collaboration with UBC. The program runs from **March – May 2026** and includes:

1. 3-Day Orientation (March 18 to 20, 2026)

Held at UBC Vancouver and/or BCCHR, students will:

- Connect with peers, mentors, and Elders
- Explore career pathways in data science
- Begin their **Mini Data Analysis (MDA)** projects using real-world datasets
- Visit labs, attend workshops, and engage in cultural and academic programming, including Indigenous health and data sovereignty topics
- Accomodation and food will be provided

2. Mentorship & Workshops (4 Biweekly sessions held from April – May 2026)

Students will attend 4 Biweekly workshop and mentorship sessions:

- 0.5-hour in-person workshop or data science lesson
- 1.5-hour mentorship session to develop data skills using R
- Cultural sessions and guest speaker talks
- Ongoing MDA work on a topic of personal or community interest

- Tentative dates: Saturday mornings (April 11, April 25, May 9, May 23)
    - Emails will be sent with updates once these are finalized!
- Food and refreshments will be provided

3. Final Symposium (May 30, 2026)

This is a full-day event where students will:

- Attend a career panel and networking opportunity
- Present their MDA projects alongside mentors and peers at the closing ceremonies
- Share their learning journey
- Food and refreshments will be provided

Requirements for Participants:

To ensure the safety and security of the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute community, as a participant I agree to complete the following onboarding and training before March 15, 2026. Participants will be supported by TOG in completing these steps.

- Complete and pass a BC Ministry of Justice Criminal Record Check. This is a legal requirement for anyone working, studying or volunteering in a hospital location.
- Complete the following online safety courses:
    - Privacy and Security 101
    - UBC Introduction to Lab Safety

Responsibilities for Participants:

While participating in the Indigenous Youth Statistics Mentorship Program, I agree to:

1. Respectful Conduct
    - Treat all participants, mentors, Elders, volunteers, and guests with respect
    - Refrain from any form of bullying, harassment, racism, or discrimination
2. Safety & Health Protocols
    - Wear a medical mask if requested and comply with all health protocols in hospital or clinical spaces
    - Sanitize hands upon entering and exiting buildings or labs
    - Wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during lab tours, including:
        - Long pants
        - Closed-toe shoes
    - Avoid prohibited clothing items in labs such as shorts, skirts, leggings, nylons, sandals, or mesh shoes
3. Program Conduct
    - Be punctual and actively participate in scheduled workshops, sessions, and activities
    - Follow all safety protocols and instructions provided by mentors, Elders, staff, and facilitators
    - Remain in designated areas and only enter lab spaces when supervised
    - Notify program staff if I am feeling unwell or unable to attend a session
4. Use of Media
    - I understand that I may be photographed or recorded during the program. These may be used for future educational or promotional purposes by TOG, BCCHR, UBC, or partners.

Overnight Stay – Additional Responsibilities:

I acknowledge that the program includes an overnight stay during the 3-Day Orientation (March 18-20, 2026) at the UBC Vancouver Campus or nearby accommodation (e.g., dormitory or hotel). I agree to the following:

- Supervision & Safety
    - I will be supervised during the overnight stay by trained program staff and volunteers.
    - I understand that mentors and staff will ensure my safety during the stay, including at designated sleeping areas, and I must follow all instructions given regarding safety and behavior.
    - I agree to respect privacy and follow any additional guidelines set by program staff regarding interactions with roommates or other participants.
- Curfew and Quiet Hours:
    - I understand there will be a curfew each night, and quiet hours will be enforced to ensure a safe and respectful environment.
    - I agree to remain in my assigned area during overnight hours, except when necessary (e.g., for restroom breaks), and not to leave the accommodation without prior approval.
- Room assignments
    - Room assignments will be made in advance by program staff. I understand that my assigned sleeping area may be in a shared room with a roommate of the same gender. Students of opposite genders will be assigned to separate floors or buildings.
    - In case of any special requests (e.g., preferences for rooming), I will communicate with program staff in advance to ensure accommodation that is respectful and comfortable.
- Personal Items:
    - I understand that I am responsible for my personal belongings during the overnight stay and must keep them with me or store them safely.
- Emergency Protocols:
    - I will be provided with emergency contact information (e.g., program coordinators, campus security) in case of illness, injury, or personal emergencies during the overnight stay.

Activities:

The Indigenous Youth Statistics Mentorship Program offers students the opportunity to experience UBC campus life, visit research labs, and work with current UBC graduate student health researchers on data analysis projects of their choosing. While onsite, participants will be supervised by assigned program mentors and UBC volunteers.

While onsite, participants will:

- Take part in lab visits, workshops, campus tours, group meals, and research activities that include working with real-world datasets or personal data collection for MDA projects.
- Some workshops may involve the handling or observation of biological samples and materials in clinical or research settings (under supervision).
- May be in close contact with up to 20 participants and mentors in indoor spaces.

Description of Risks:

The activities have foreseeable and unforeseeable inherent risks, hazards, and dangers. No amount of care, caution, or expertise can fully eliminate the potential for harm. Potential risks of participating include:

- Exposure to the general laboratory hazards that exist in any clinical laboratory environment, including: burns (chemical, thermal, and electrical); eye damage or irritation; infection;

poisoning; respiratory injury or sensitization; lacerations from glassware; and exposure to toxic or biohazardous substances, among other risks. Although the risk of exposure to general laboratory hazards is minimal, the risk does exist. Accordingly, participants will be supervised at all times by someone trained in the identification and avoidance of potential hazards and the exercise of appropriate safety protocols. Parents and guardians must ensure that student participants are mature and capable of enthusiastic compliance with safety rules and directions.

- Exposure to a variety of samples and specimens that may be found in a clinical laboratory setting, including biological specimens such as tissue, fluids, or blood.
- Exposure to contagious diseases such as COVID-19.
- Emotional discomfort from discussions about sensitive cultural or health topics (e.g., Indigenous health inequities, harmful statistics).

Risk Management

- Participants will always be supervised by trained mentors and staff.
- All safety protocols will be in place and communicated clearly.
- Students may step away from any session that causes distress and will be supported.

Acknowledgement:

I acknowledge that:

- I understand the nature of the Indigenous Youth Statistics Mentorship Program and the responsibilities expected of me.
- I have read and understand the description of potential risks involved.

I confirm that I have read this agreement, understand it, and that I have executed this agreement voluntarily.

_____	_____
Name of Participant (Print)	Signature of Participant

_____	_____	_____
Name of Parent/Guardian (Print) (If participant is under 19)	Signature of Parent/Guardian	Date Signed