

LETTER OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE RESEARCH PROJECT

Project: What about accessory dwelling units? - ADUs role in regards to changes in housing needs and their potential contribution to a sustainable (sub)urban transition

This study is conducted by Guillaume Lessard in the context of a postdoctoral research project. It is supervised by Professor Pierre Filion and by Professor Richard Harris. The project is hosted by the School of Planning at Waterloo University. This research is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) through the CMHC Housing Research Scholarship Program.

The research is examining the role of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in affordable housing and in urban consolidation strategies. Accessory dwelling units (ADUs) are additional residential units that occupy the same lot as a primary residence. A growing number of Canadian cities are authorizing ADUs because of their potential benefits. This study seeks to better our understanding of the role that ADUs play in the housing market and to assess their place in relation to affordable housing and urban consolidation strategies. By participating in this research, you are contributing to a better understanding of problems and solutions in affordable housing and in sustainable urban transition.

Your participation in this study will consist in a semi-structured interview. The interview should last approximately thirty minutes to an hour. With your permission, the audio of the interview would be recorded. Because of COVID, the interview will be conducted via Zoom or by phone.

Your participation is entirely voluntary. You can refuse to answer any question and you are free to leave the interview at any time without explanation. Your name, occupation or organizational affiliations will not be mentioned in the publications following this research. This information will be kept on a separate document which will be password protected and encrypted. The interview transcript and recording will be given an alphanumerical identification number and will be kept in a password protected and encrypted folder. The statements and opinions collected during this interview will be anonymised. This study will make use of anonymous quotations. Quotations will include the participant's general occupation (e.g., elected official, housing developer, urban planner, etc.). Identifying information will be kept for at least two years after the end of this research. The anonymised data will be kept for future research of the same nature for at least five years. Furthermore, you can ask to remove your data from the study up until approximately June 2022. After this, since reports and scientific papers will have been written, we cannot guarantee that we can remove your data.

The risks associated with this study is that, despite the precautions mentioned above, you might be indirectly recognized because of the notoriety of your opinions, beliefs and expertise in your field. In addition, when information is transmitted over the internet privacy cannot be guaranteed. There is always a risk your responses may be intercepted by a third party (e.g., government agencies, hackers). University of Waterloo researchers will not collect or use internet protocol (IP) addresses or other information which could link your participation to your computer or electronic device without first informing you.

At the beginning of the interview, the researcher will ask you the questions on the consent form provided in this email and document your agreement to participate. Please feel free to contact the researcher with any questions that you have about this study at the contact information listed below.

This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through a University of Waterloo Research Ethics Board (REB #43590). If you have questions for the Board contact the Office of Research Ethics at 1-519-888-4567 ext. 36005 or reb@uwaterloo.ca.

Guillaume Lessard, PhD.

Postdoctoral researcher at the University of Waterloo and McMaster University
guillaume.lessard@uwaterloo.ca | 1-819-342-5629