

Dear Potential Participant,

Thank you for your interest in this research project. Your time and help are truly appreciated. This sheet gives some basic information on the research, what you can expect, how the data will be handled and used in the future. If anything is unclear or you want more information, please feel free to ask any question you wish, my contact details are at the end of this document.

### **What is this research about?**

The objective of this project is to explore food as “contested terrain” (Brisman 2008) within the Canadian federal prison system. Specifically, it will seek to (1) better understand the experience of food within federal prisons, (2) map the key actors and relationships implicated in carceral food systems and (3) to analyze particular moments and sites where food has been taken up as a tool to contest the treatment of prisoners and articulate alternative possibilities. Carceral food systems is a term used to encompass the various relationships, activities and actors involved in food provisioning within prisons.

By gaining a better understanding of the actors, relationships and activities bound up in the provisioning of food in prisons, this project will identify points of tension and possibility through which to articulate a transformative food justice. In doing so, it will answer the central question: How is food used as a tool of contestation, and a lens through which to imagine and enact transformative food justice? Two cases studies have been identified for in-depth analysis: resistance to the Food Services Modernization Act (2014) and the campaigns surrounding the closure (2009) and re-opening (2018) of Canada’s prison farms. The research will consist of a survey, interviews, document analysis and media analysis.

### **What is being requested of me?**

We are looking to hear from participants in one of the following groups:

- Those directly involved in the organizing or advocacy efforts around these issues— individuals who self-identify as active participants.
- Federal government staff and officials whose work relates to the prison farms or prison food services. This includes representatives from Correctional Service of Canada and the Office of the Correctional Investigator.
- Formerly incarcerated individuals with lived experience of the prison food service or prison farms

Involvement in this project will entail your participation in a survey and/or in an interview. The survey will take between 15-20 minutes to complete. The interview will take between 60-90 minutes, and can take place at a location of your choosing, or using an online web conference survey (such as Zoom). You will be asked about your activities and experiences related to prison food service and the prison farm, your assessment of these programs and services, how food can be used as a tool of change, and what changes you think need to be made.

Your participation is completely voluntary; you may refuse to answer any questions, or withdraw from the study up until the findings are submitted for publication.

**Are there any benefits or risks I should be aware of?**

I hope this research will generate new knowledge about prison food systems, and the experiences of food behind bars. My aim is to contribute to both the academic literature as well as the on-the-ground experiences and practices of organizations and actors engaged in efforts to transform carceral food systems and prisons as a whole.

While there are very few perceived risks from participating in this research, those with lived experience may find that some questions ask them to recall difficult or traumatic experiences in prison. I also recognize that participating in forms of activism and organizing contain a certain level of risk, and that participating in this research may make you more visible as someone associated with these campaigns. Every effort will be made to maintain your confidentiality, but it is possible that those familiar with these issue and campaigns may be able to identify you based on your responses. Your participation is voluntary and you are only being asked to offer information you feel comfortable sharing with us. Your name will only be used in publications stemming from this research if you explicitly request that it be used.

A report summarising the key findings will be made available to all participants. All identifying information will be removed from data before it is shared, unless participants wave their right to privacy on the signed letter.

**How should I expect to be treated?**

This research aims to maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct and integrity. Centrally, this means that in participating in this research you should feel that you, and your contribution, have been treated with respect. Participation is entirely voluntary and all information offered will be treated in good faith. You are welcome to refuse to participate, withdraw from the research up until the time that the findings are submitted for publication, and/or refuse to answer any of the questions asked without any negative repercussions.

All questions about the research, its aims and outcomes will be answered openly and honestly. The interview should last approximately 60 minutes, and will take place online over Zoom or in-person at a location of your choosing. While we retain final editorial control over what we choose to write, you are free to withdraw any information you have contributed at any stage by contacting us and indicating your wish to do so. You are welcome to see articles and other publications arising from this research.

This study has been approved by the Saint Paul University Research Ethics Board. If you have any questions related to the ethics of the research and would like to speak to someone outside of the research team please contact the Research Office and Ethics at Saint Paul University (613-236-1393).

**What will you do with what I tell you?**

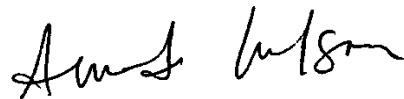
The interview data will be used to develop an analysis of carceral food systems and the ways in which food is used as a tool of contestation within federal prisons. The information you share will not be attributed to you individually, though participants should be aware that depending on the details provided it may be possible for some people to identify you based on your response. Direct quotes will only be used with your explicit permission.

**What will happen to the data after it is collected?**

Myself and a Research Assistant will be the only ones who will have access to the interview transcripts and identifiable materials (including your consent form). All raw data will be encrypted and stored on password protected computers and in locked filing cabinets for up to five years and then destroyed (electronic copies deleted, and any hard copies shredded). The final research results may be shared through a summary report, knowledge-sharing workshops, academic publications and conference presentations.

If you have further questions about these processes or feel uncomfortable with any aspect of them, please let me know as soon as possible.

Thank you again for your time and assistance,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amanda" and last name "Wilson" clearly distinguishable.

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