

## Detailed Survey Consent Information

Nova Ramp Up: Assessing the impact of custom storefront ramps to improve the accessibility of Pictou businesses and public awareness of accessibility

### **Primary Contact:**

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### **Introduction:**

You are invited to take part in a research study conducted in collaboration between the John Howard Society, Nova Scotia Accessibility Directorate, Department of Justice, Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage, and the PEACH Research Unit at Dalhousie University, entitled, *Nova.StopGap: Assessing the impact of custom storefront ramps to improve the accessibility of businesses and public awareness of accessibility*. Your participation in this research is entirely your choice.

You are eligible to take this survey if you are 18 years of age or older and a resident or frequent visitor to the communities participating in this study: Antigonish, Tatamagouche, Pictou, New Glasgow, River John, Stellarton, Scotsburn, Trenton, Thorburn, Truro, and Pictou Landing First Nations Band, and Toney River. At any time during the survey, you can choose to cease your participation.

If you have any questions about this initiative, we are happy to talk to you any time. Please arrange to speak with a research team member if you have any questions about the Nova Ramp Up project and your participation.

### **Purpose of the Research Study:**

The purpose of the study is to improve the accessibility of commercial storefronts in Nova Scotia for persons with disabilities by building and donating custom-fit portable ramps to participating businesses, as well as to raise awareness for accessibility issues through the visibility of the colourful, custom-built Nova Ramp Up ramps in the community. Accessibility in our neighborhood-built environments is important as it supports or hinders independent living, participation in social activities, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. In this study, the 'accessibility' of storefronts means people can enter, travel through, and use the entrance and interior of a business easily, safely, and comfortably.

This study will ask for your feedback on the activities of the Nova Ramp Up initiative to better understand its successes and areas for improvement. Therefore, the objectives of this study are (1) to investigate immediate and anticipated impacts of the project for each stakeholder group (small businesses, community members including persons with disabilities in the Pictou area, and

persons with experience of incarceration) by gathering data through surveys and personal, semi-structured interviews, and (2) To synthesize lessons learned for replication of this initiative in other Nova Scotian communities.

### **What will you be asked to do?**

This survey asks you to share your perspectives and experiences of the accessibility of businesses in Pictou County and the impact of the Nova.StopGap ramps. You will also be invited to share your ideas for improving the accessibility throughout communities. The survey also asks some questions about you, including your age and types of disabilities you may experience.

All information you provide to us will be collected anonymously, which means that there will be no questions in the survey that ask for identifying details such as your name or email address. Although anonymous, and you and your answers will never be linked, we still need your consent. Please fill out the consent form.

### **Can you withdraw from the study?**

Your participation in this research is entirely your choice. You may stop participating at any time during the survey. Once you submit your completed survey, we will not be able to remove the information you provided because the surveys are completed anonymously, and we will not be able to identify your responses.

### **Possible Benefits, Risks, and Discomforts**

Feedback on Nova Ramp Up will help us determine how to improve similar initiatives in the future, and we hope this project will help improve the accessibility of our shared built environment for the future. By participating in this survey, your name will be put in a draw for the chance to win 1 of 4 \$25 gift cards to Tim Hortons retailers. Other than that, you will receive no direct benefit. You will be able to enter for your chance to win at the end of the survey. If you choose to stop participating before completing the survey, you can still enter to win at the link provided at the end of the survey (just leave all remaining questions blank until you reach the end). Click on the link to enter your first name and email address OR phone number into the draw. This contact information will only be used to contact you if you are a winner. The winners of the draw will be selected after September 12, 2022. If you win, you will be notified through the email address or phone number you provided. Do not click on the "Submit" button at the end of the survey if you do not wish to contribute your survey responses, please just exit the window.

### **How will the information be protected?**

The research team has an obligation to uphold privacy and confidentiality rules by the University.

How we collect and store data:

The research team will store your responses in a password-protected database secured through Dalhousie University, where only they have the password and access.

How the participant identities will be shown in other reports

The results of the study will be shown in the form of academic publication, reports, graphic, and blog posts on a website of our research laboratory, as well as potentially through conference presentations. All your contributions to this research will be completely anonymous, meaning we will not ask for your name or use your name when displaying any results.

**How to Obtain Results**

If you would like, you will receive an electronic copy of the researchers report when it is available. Other types of publication can also be sent to you at your request. For inquiry, please contact Kate at [peach@dal.ca](mailto:peach@dal.ca).

**Questions**

Please feel free to contact members of the research team with any questions or concerns about the study. This study has received ethics approval through the Dalhousie University School of Planning internal unit review process. (REB 2022-6008)

Name

Signature

Date