



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

Faculty of Nursing

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Hello,

My name is Dr. Roberta Woodgate. I am a teacher and researcher in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Manitoba. I would like to tell you about a study that I am doing with my colleagues. The study has been approved by the University of Manitoba Education/Nursing Research Ethics Board. This letter is being sent to you by [community organization]. I do not know your name and I do not have any information about you or your family.

The name of our study is **Aboriginal Youth Living with HIV: From Diagnosis to Learning to Manage their Health and Lives**. In this study, we are trying to learn from young people about their experiences being diagnosed with HIV. What we learn from you may help in improving services and programs for youth with HIV and AIDS.

We are inviting young people between 15 and 29 years old to take part in this study. All parts of this study are voluntary, meaning that you can decide how much you want to participate. Your decision to participate or not participate in the study will not impact the support you receive from [community organization]. You will receive a gift card to thank you for your participation in this study. You will be able to keep this gift card even if you choose not to continue in the study.

Participation in this Study: If you decide to participate, you will be asked to take part in two audio-recorded interviews. Each interview will last between 60-90 minutes. These sessions can be at a place of your preference, such as your home, [community organization] or the University of Manitoba.

In the first session:

- You will fill out a form about your life such as school, grade, and age.
- You will also complete an Ecomap. An Ecomap is a picture of the people, activities, and places that are a part of your life.
- There is also an interview with questions about your experiences living with HIV. Some of the questions we ask are included at the end of this letter.
- At the end of this interview you will be given a digital camera. You will be asked to take pictures of people, places and things that represent some of your experiences living with HIV. You will be asked to choose approximately 15 pictures to talk about during the next session.

The second session (about a month after session 1):

- You will be encouraged to talk about what your pictures mean and how the pictures relate to living with HIV. You can keep the simple digital camera after the study.

After hearing from young people, we plan to write a report on all the information we collect to help us understand what it is like for youth to live with HIV. We will present this information at conferences and publish it in journal articles. We will present the information in ways that ensure your confidentiality; no one will know you participated in this study. We plan to share the information with health care providers, schools, community groups, and policy makers, so that they can learn about youth's experiences living with HIV. You can also receive a brief summary of the study if you want one.

If you are interested in participating in the study and/or have any questions, concerns, please contact the study's Research Coordinator, at 204-xxx-xxxx or at by email at: xxx@xxx. You may also contact me at 204-474-8338. My email address: Roberta.Woodgate@umanitoba.ca.

Thank you for considering our study.

Sincerely,

Dr. Roberta Woodgate
Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Applied Chair in Reproductive, Child and Youth Health Services and Policy Research

Professor, Faculty of Nursing
University of Manitoba

Sample Open-Ended Interview Questions

- Can you please tell me what life was like before being diagnosed with HIV?
- Can you please tell me about the time when you first found out about your HIV status?
 - How did you find out? Who told you?
 - Were you by yourself when you got the news?
 - How did it make you feel?
 - What did you do after finding out about your HIV status?
- Can you please tell me what life was like for you during that period? How did your life change?

