

INFORMATION LETTER & INFORMED CONSENT FORM

To help you make an informed decision regarding your participation in this project, this letter will outline what this project is about, potential risks and benefits of your participation, as well as your rights as a participant. If you do not understand something in this letter, please ask the Lead Researcher prior to consenting to the project. You will also be provided with a copy of the information letter and informed consent form if you choose to participate in the project.

Title of Research Project: *What 2SLGBTQI Youth in Esports Want: Navigating Cyber Violence and Modes of Gaming Otherwise*

Researcher(s): This project will be conducted by Ariel Dela Cruz, MA, Research Officer, 2SLGBTQI Digital Youth Culture and Learning, Egale Canada, with Dennis Quesnel, Project Manager, Egale Canada.

External Funder/Sponsor:



Ontario Trillium Foundation Seed Grant

This project has been reviewed and approved by the Community Research Ethics Office.

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

You are invited to participate in a research project entitled, *What 2SLGBTQI Youth in Esports Want: Navigating Cyber Violence and Modes of Gaming Otherwise*. The purpose of this foundational, provincial research project is to better understand the experiences of Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, and Intersex (2SLGBTQI) youth in Ontario who actively participate in esports as casual gamers, fans, and/or professional players, and garner insight into the strategies that 2SLGBTQI youth implement to navigate esports. This project also seeks to amplify the voices and experiences of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, people of colour) as well as trans and non-binary community members.

Though 2SLGBTQI youth continue to utilize esports as a space of leisure and pleasure, online gaming spaces continue to be marked by online hate and cyber violence. Recognizing the gaps in current literature and understandings of 2SLGBTQI youth who navigate and participate in esports, Egale is conducting foundational provincial research on the state of online violence for Ontario youth in esports and identify what strategies 2SLGBTQI youth use to navigate these spaces. This project involves online focus groups with 2SLGBTQI youth (who are 16 years old or older) who live in Ontario, participate in esports as casual gamers, fans, and/or professional players, and are able to consent. The aim of the focus groups is to better understand the unique experiences and needs of 2SLGBTQI youth who participate in esports and online gaming. We aim to conduct 4-5 virtual focus groups, each consisting of approximately 5-6 participants who live in Ontario. Participation will take approximately 2 hours of your time. Specifically, the *Introductory Meeting* (30 mins) and *Focus Group* (60-90 mins) will take place at a mutually agreed upon date and time. The focus groups will be audio-recorded and later transcribed.

POTENTIAL RISKS

Due to the nature of the project, we anticipate that the focus group discussions might raise issues that cause you some discomfort in instances where you or others have had traumatic, triggering, violent, or harmful experiences. Should this occur, it will be the facilitator's responsibility to ensure that they respond to the participant with patience, empathy, and without judgement – which is why experienced facilitators will be moderating the focus groups. The Lead Researcher will also ensure that you the time, resources, and support you need and direct you to local support services if needed. We have also attached a list of Support Services and Resources for 2SLGBTQI Youth in Ontario at the end of this form for your reference. Because of the online group setting of the project, we understand that there may be potential social limitations around confidentiality of information shared during the focus groups. In order to attend to this limitation, we will ask that all participants respect the privacy of other focus group members at the beginning of each focus group. We also suggest that, if possible, participants find a quiet and private space to use and/or utilize headphones during the focus group to ensure that others who you may live with do not hear the responses of other participants. Should there be issues regarding unwanted or harmful language or risks to privacy and confidentiality from participants, the Lead Researcher and moderator will have the ability to remove these participants from the focus group.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

We cannot guarantee that you will receive any direct benefits from participating in this project. However, there is potential for future benefits to stem from this project that will improve the safety and participation of 2SLGBTQI youth in esports. 2SLGBTQI youth and who participate in esports as fans, players, and casual gamers in Ontario may potentially benefit by having a space to share their experiences amongst other 2SLGBTQI gamers and to voice any ideas they may have about changes they would like to see in the esports industry. Participants may emotionally benefit from building community and generating ideas in conversation with other 2SLGBTQI youth gamers. Participants may also emotionally benefit from contributing the esports research that amplifies the unique experiences, perspectives, and needs of 2SLGBTQI youth. The results of this research will be used to help inform esports groups, decision-makers, and policymakers in Toronto and across Ontario about the needs of youth and the possibilities of youth-led interventions for the esports industry moving forward.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Your privacy will be respected by the research team although, we cannot promise or ensure that other participants will do the same. We will, however, ask all participants in the project to respect the privacy and confidentiality of all participants during each focus group.

To ensure confidentiality, we will remove all identifying information that is collected and store it on a password-protected file on a password-protected laptop for double encryption that only the Lead Researcher will have access to. Names will be recorded with the data however they will not be used in the report and will be destroyed at the end of the project. No information about your identity will be shared or published without your permission. With your permission, anonymous quotations may be used in publications and/or presentations. You have the option to be assigned or choose a

pseudonym to be used in any future presentations, reports, or publications based on this research.

Raw data will be stored on a secure online server that is managed by Egale Canada with end-to-end encryption and two-factor authentication to which only the Lead Researcher have access. In addition, all hard copies of the raw data (i.e., digital audio recordings and paper notes) will be stored on Egale Canada's secure online server to which only the Lead Researcher have access. Once the audio files have been transcribed, they will be destroyed. All raw data and hard copies of raw data will be destroyed at the end of the project. We will only use the information for the purposes of the research described in this form.

COMPENSATION

For participating in this project, you will receive a \$50 Amazon eGift card. If you withdraw from the project prior to its completion, you will still receive the \$50 gift card.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions at any time about the project or the procedures you may contact the Lead Researcher, Ariel Dela Cruz, at adelacruz@egale.ca.

This project has been reviewed and approved by the Community Research Ethics Board. If you feel you have not been treated according to the descriptions in our information, or your rights as a participant in research have been violated during the course of this project, you may contact the Chair, Community Research Ethics Board, at: Community Research Ethics Office (Canada) Corp. c/o Centre for Community Based Research, 190 Westmount Road North, Waterloo ON N2L 3G5; Email: creo@communitybasedresearch.ca Telephone: 1-888-411-2736.

PARTICIPATION

Your participation in this project is voluntary; you may decline to participate without penalty. If you decide to participate, you may withdraw from the project at any time without penalty and without loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. If you withdraw from the project, every attempt will be made to remove your data from the project, and have it destroyed. You have the right to omit any question(s)/procedure(s) you choose.

FEEDBACK AND PUBLICATION

The research will result in a final report, prepared and printed in both official languages and distributed to esports groups, decision-makers and policymakers in Toronto and across Ontario. The report will contain a review of the research findings and possible youth-led or other interventions to support the emotional and social strengths of youth participating in esports.

If you are interested, we will share the results with you when we complete the project in September 2021. Please contact adelacruz@egale.ca

CONSENT AND CONFIRMATION OF AGREEMENT

By consenting to this agreement, you are not giving up any of your legal rights or releasing the researcher(s) or involved institution(s) from their legal and professional responsibilities.

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I have read and understand the above information.

I have had the opportunity to ask any questions that I may have regarding this project and have received satisfactory answers to my questions.

I am aware that this interview will be audio recorded and I understand how these recordings will be stored and destroyed.

I was informed that I may withdraw my consent at any time without penalty by contacting the Lead Researcher.

I give permission to be contacted after the completion of this focus group to provide feedback and/or additional information, if needed.

I hereby declare that all the information I have provided is true and correct. I understand that any willful dishonesty may render for refusal to participate in this project.

I have received a copy of this form.

I agree to participate in this project.

**Participant's
printed name**

**Researcher's
printed name**

Date

I agree to the use of direct quotations that have had any identifying information of myself or others removed.

**Participant's
printed name**

**Researcher's
printed name**

Date

List of Support Services and Resources for 2SLGBTQI Youth in Ontario

Good2Talk

- <https://good2talk.ca/>
- 1-866-925-5454

Kid's Help Phone

- 1-800-668-6868

LGBT YouthLine

- <https://www.youthline.ca/>
- 647-694-4275

Local Distress Centre Contact Information Resource

- <http://www.dcontario.org/centres.html>

Salaam Canada

- <http://www.salaamcanada.info>
- 416-904-9721

Trans Lifeline

- 1-877-330-6366

Youthspace.ca

- <http://www.youthspace.ca>
- 778-783-0177