

CONSENT FORM – PHASE 1

A study validating the tool: “*Barriers to Employment and Coping Efficacy Scales – Veterans (BECES-V)*”

Purpose of the study

The University of Sherbrooke, in collaboration with Veterans Affairs Canada and the Canadian Armed Forces, will be in charge of a study that will validate an assessment instrument – i.e. a questionnaire -, entitled “Barriers to Employment and Coping Efficacy Scales – Veterans (BECES-V)”. The main goal of this study is to validate the BECES-V with 150 Veterans who are suffering from mental health problems that are in the process of transitioning to the civilian workplace and that enrolled in one of the five Operational Stress Injury (OSI) Clinics, rehabilitation programs or Veterans associations collaborating in this research project.

SSRRB Approval Number

This research project has been approved by the DGMPPRA Social Science Research Review Board, in accordance with CANFORGEN 198/08. The SSRRB approval # is 1324/14F.

Participation

Your participation is completely voluntary and you have a choice at every stage to end your participation without reprisal or career repercussions. The survey will last between 30 to 60 minutes. The researcher involved in this study will keep your responses confidential and will protect your anonymity in any reports or publications.

Risk

There may be risks involved in participating in this study, they are assessed as: minimal level. Due to the nature of the research, your participation in this study will require that you volunteer or share personal experiences and information which may cause you to experience some slight discomfort. Appropriate measures will be taken to minimize your discomfort and the person conducting the survey is able to provide you with a list of referrals for your personal use should you experience a degree of unease during or after the interview.

You are not required to respond to any question that you are not comfortable with and, should you choose not to respond, there will be no negative consequences for you.

Benefits

While participation in this research may not benefit you directly, you may experience some indirect benefit in that the questions raised may identify potential barriers to successful transition that you may wish to explore in greater detail with the professionals assigned to guide you through the transition process. In addition, your participation in this research now may help improve the prospects for successful future transitions of other CAF members.

Study Phases

In this study, you will be invited to complete a questionnaire (possibly twice), and to answer a phone interview.

Phase 1 : Completion of the first questionnaire

You are invited to complete the questionnaires by phone interview with the project coordinator, who will answer your questions and guide you through the completion of the questionnaire. The BECES-V questionnaire contains 106 multiple-choice questions. You will also be invited to complete a 20 item questionnaire containing socio-demographic information (i.e. gender, age, etc.) and a 14 item questionnaire concerning motivation to find a job. It will take you between 30 and 60 minutes to complete the first part of the research.

Phase 2 : Completion of the second questionnaire

Two weeks after completing the first questionnaire, we might solicit you to answer the questionnaire again (random selection process, 15% of participants). The process should take less time because you are already familiar with the questionnaire. It will take you between 30 to 60 minutes to complete the second part of the research.

Phase 3 : Phone Interview

Six months after completing the first BECES-V questionnaire, we will ask you to participate in a brief phone interview in order to learn more about your possible return to work. It will take you approximately 5 minutes to complete the third part of the research. The third part is strongly recommended since it is important for us to know the socio-professional path of veterans, especially since this part is very short.

Information you provide

Information derived from any transcription will be stored in a secure place. All paper documents will be kept in a locked filing cabinet at the office of the project's coordinator, located in Longueuil, Quebec.

The information collected will be kept strictly confidential, and will only be shared with members of the research team and the Department of National Defence. While there is

the remote possibility that someone might be able to deduce your identity based on some combination of the demographic questions, all individual level information will be kept strictly confidential. Source documentation will be destroyed after 5 years.

ATIP Considerations

You are aware that under the Access to Information Act, Canadian citizens are entitled to obtain copies of research reports and research information (including the database pertaining to this project) held in Federal government files. Similarly, under the Privacy Act, Canadian citizens are entitled to copies of all information concerning them that is held in Federal government files. Prior to releasing requested information, the Directorate of Access to Information and Privacy (DAIP) screens the information to ensure that individual identities are not disclosed.

Questions/Concerns

Any information about your rights as a research participant may be addressed to Mrs. Maud Mazaniello, project coordinator (514-251-4000, ext. 3685, Maud.Mazaniello.CEMTL@ssss.gouv.qc.ca) or at Dr. Marc Corbière, principal investigator (514-987-3000, ext. 5574, Marc.Corbriere@USherbrooke.ca). You may verify the authenticity of the research by contacting the CISSS de la Montérégie-Centre's Ethics Committee at 450-466-5000, ext. 2564.

What if you change your mind about participating?

You may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty – participation is completely voluntary. However, if you decide you no longer wish to take part *after* you have provided information, we will remove the information from consideration before we do the analysis after which the data will be compiled into a formal report/presentation.

Acceptance

In no way does your agreement to participate waive your legal rights nor release the researcher, sponsors, or involved institutions from their legal and professional responsibilities. You are free to withdraw from this research project at any time. You should feel free to ask for clarification or new information throughout your participation.

Do you understand to your satisfaction the information provided to you about your participation in this research project? Yes__ No__

Do you agree to participate as a research subject? Yes ___ No ___

Are you prepared to begin with this study now, or would you like to have this Research Consent Form sent to you by email or mail first? Now ___ Mail ___

Name (please print)

Signature

Date

Participant:

Project coordinator:

Principal Researcher:

Dr. Marc Corbière

Emergency phone numbers

If you are feeling distressed, or worried about a family member, you can call the following toll free numbers 24/7.

For members (Members Assistance Program) : **1-800-268-7708**

For families (Family Information Line) : **1-800-866-4546**