

Exploring the Impact of Cancer on Mental Health:
Seniors' Experiences and Perspectives



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Invitation to Participate in Study on

***Exploring the Impact of Cancer on Emotional Well Being:
Seniors' Experiences and Perspectives***

If you are 65 years of age and older and received a cancer diagnosis within the last five years, you may be eligible to participate in an important study that will gather information about your experiences with cancer and the strategies you adopted to help cope with the disease.

This study is important because very little is known about how cancer affects the lives of seniors and how they cope with the illness and its impact.

This study is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada and being conducted in Nova Scotia, Ontario and British Columbia by Dr. Penny MacCourt, University of Victoria in collaboration with the Nova Scotia Centre on Aging, Mount Saint Vincent University; Sudbury Regional Hospital; BC Cancer Agency; and University of Northern British Columbia.

For more information or to register your participation please contact:

Pamela Fancey
Nova Scotia Centre on Aging
Mount Saint Vincent University
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Telephone: 902-457-6546 Email: nsca@msvu.ca

You choose whether or not you would like to take part in this study
Your participation is voluntary

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If I choose to take part in this study what will I do?

If you take part in this study, you will be invited to attend a focus group discussion and talk about:

- What the experience of cancer has been like for you.
- How cancer has challenged your emotional well-being.
- What strategies you have used to deal with these challenges.

Where are the discussions taking place?

Group discussions will be held in Metro-Halifax and Kentville areas. Specific locations to be determined. If you are unable to participate in a group discussion, arrangements may be made for a personal interview by telephone.

When will the discussions take place?

Discussions are being scheduled for October 14 to 16, 2008; morning and afternoon time slots are available.

How long will this take?

This will take about 1-2 hours of your time.

Are there any risks associated with taking part in this study?

Talking about your experience with cancer may cause you some emotional distress or you may become tired during the group interview. If this should happen, the researcher will arrange a break, spend time with you, and (if you choose) contact a family member or friend or refer you to professional services.

Are there any benefits associated with taking part in this study?

Although you may not benefit directly from the study, the results will be used to create a Seniors-to-Seniors advice pamphlet that will be made available to other seniors who are diagnosed with cancer. Findings will also be used to inform the practice of health care professionals.

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Will I receive any payment for taking part in the study?

No payment will be made to people who take part in this study.

What do I do if I want to participate?

Contact the Nova Scotia Centre on Aging at Mount Saint Vincent University to discuss your eligibility and obtain more details.