



THE ARBUTUS GREENWAY MAY IMPACT YOUR HEALTH

Researchers from SFU and UBC will investigate whether new city infrastructure affects the health and wellbeing of those who live nearby.

VANCOUVER, May 7, 2018 – Researchers from Simon Fraser University (SFU) and The University of British Columbia (UBC) want to know if, and how, a City of Vancouver (CoV) infrastructure project is affecting the health of its citizens. The Arbutus Greenway, a north-south transportation corridor that runs from False Creek to the Fraser River currently in development, is the focus of their work. Beginning this April, the researchers hope that members of the local community will volunteer to participate in their 5-year study.

The CoV is making a significant investment in the Arbutus Greenway with the hope that the new infrastructure will serve the community well. “We know that postal codes are a powerful predictor of our health,” explained SFU’s Meghan Winters, who is the lead researcher on the project, “We want to see if people living near the Arbutus Greenway will experience changes in key health outcomes year-over-year, as the CoV develops the corridor.” This study will invite people over the age of 45, who live within 2 km of the Arbutus Greenway to complete two online surveys and collect locational data through a mobile phone or wearable device. The team will look at how people move about the city, how active they are, whether or not they are socially active, and their wellbeing.

“We really hope Vancouver residents in the area will participate in our study. Our work is filling a critical research need in Canada. By evaluating urban design projects, like the Arbutus Greenway, we can provide governments with the scientific evidence they need to make meaningful and important investments in healthy cities. Our wellbeing depends on it,” said Winters. Those living in the catchment area of the study may receive a letter in the mail inviting them to respond and participate. For those who don’t receive the letter, and think they may be eligible, please visit our website: www.teaminteract.ca/vancouver

ABOUT

The team, comprised of researchers from SFU and UBC, represent [INTERventions, Research, and Action in Cities Team \(INTERACT\)](#), a larger national research collaboration of scientists, urban planners, and engaged citizens uncovering how the design of our cities is shaping the health and wellbeing of Canadians from coast to coast, and UBC’s [Active Aging Research Team](#), an interdisciplinary research group that promotes connected, active lives through research, community engagement, and scientific evaluation. Last spring and summer, the team observed what people are doing on the Arbutus Greenway, asked users how and why they use the Greenway, and whether or not they enjoy the corridor. The team is also working with local schools to understand how youth use the infrastructure.

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QUICK FACTS

- To participate, visit our website or contact Caitlin Pugh (visit www.teaminteract.ca/vancouver or email vancouver@teaminteract.ca)
- According to data gathered last summer
 - On average 170 people/hour use the Greenway (measured at 6th Avenue)
 - Over 3,000 users were observed; 52 per cent cyclists, 44 per cent walking, and the remaining were joggers
 - After talking to 700 people along the Arbutus Greenway, 50 per cent of people use it primarily for recreation
 - 88 per cent of people who participated use the Greenway more than they did in Spring 2017
- This study will end in 2022

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AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

Meghan Winters is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University, and leads the Cities, Health, and Active Transportation Research Lab. The study was funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. More on the study is available at www.teaminteract.ca