

# **Domino Project: Black LGBTQ+ Youth Needs Assessment**

Survey Disclaimer July 2020

## **Background**

The Domino Project: Black LGBTQ+ Youth Needs Assessment is led by the Black Queer Youth Collective (BQYC). This community needs assessment falls under the commitment of the Domino project in partnership with Parkdale Queen West Community Health Center (PQWCHC). This research project is partially funded by OTF's Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF) and Children's Aid Foundation.

The Black Queer Youth Collective is a grassroots group that seeks to identify and respond to the needs of Black Queer and Trans youth. The Domino Project is a 24-month pilot project coordinated by the Black Queer Youth Collective to provide peer support to Black LGBTQ+ youth through monthly themed workshops, presentations and community outings related to the health and wellbeing of youth.

Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre is the organizational mentor and trustee of the Domino Project. Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre (Parkdale Queen West CHC) is a community-based health service organization serving south-west Toronto. We offer a broad range of services, including primary health care, dental care, harm reduction, health promotion, counselling, and community development programming.

This research study is lead by Tatiana B Ferguson, co-lead of the Domino project and independent community researcher. Tatiana Ferguson holds an Academic Business diploma and studied Business Management at the College of the Bahamas. Her work is informed by an anti-oppression framework with an examination of how intersections of race, gender, and class interplay to create barriers for youth. Her work fundamentally addresses social and political issues through research, training and education. Tatiana also has extensive experience working on local and national community-based research projects related to LGBTQ+ health and wellbeing and projects designed for Trans people.

**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](mailto:creo@communitybasedresearch.ca) Telephone: 1-888-411-2736

## **Description**

We invited members of the Black LGBTQ+ community to participate in a short online survey on their experiences accessing youth programming. The purpose of this community needs assessment is to better understand the needs and experiences of Black youth related to youth programming to inform the development of a community report.

## **Eligibility criteria**

Participants for this study are residents of Ontario who identify as an African, Caribbean, or Black youth between the ages of 16-29 years old and a member of the LGBTQ+ community. The study seeks to engage 50 – 100 Black LGBTQ+ youth in the anonymous online survey. Each participant will be required to willingly consent to participating to the study.

Participants will be recruited between the months of August and September 2020. Recruitment will take place online through email and social media. The recruitment will consist of a mix of sponsored ads and organic posts on various platforms. The BQYC and its affiliates will also support with promoting the study in their established networks.

## **Informed consent**

Participation in this online survey is voluntarily. Each participant will be required to digitally consent to participating in the study prior to being granted access. The consent process consists of two questions. Interested participants must consent to both questions to participate in this study. Participants who do not wish to consent to participating in this study will not be granted access. Additionally, should a participant retract their consent and no longer wish to participate in the study, they can withdraw their participation by closing the survey window. Withdrawal from the study will not affect participants from receiving any benefits or supports described in this study. In accordance with the Section 8 of the Privacy Act, 8(2) Subject to any other Act of Parliament, personal information under the control of a government institution may be disclosed for the purpose for which the information was obtained or compiled by the institution or for a use consistent

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with that purpose; for any purpose in accordance with any Act of Parliament or any regulation made thereunder that authorizes its disclosure; to any person or body for research or statistical purposes if the head of the government institution is satisfied that the purpose for which the information is disclosed cannot reasonably be accomplished unless the information is provided in a form that would identify the individual to whom it relates, and obtains from the person or body a written undertaking that no subsequent disclosure of the information will be made in a form that could reasonably be expected to identify the individual to whom it relates. As required by law, in some circumstances, the researcher may share the IP numbers and report on data collected in this study.

### **Data Collection**

Following the informed consent, participants will be asked to complete a series of demographic questions to ensure they are eligible for to the study. The study will focus on 3 key areas related to youth programming,

1. Access to programs
2. Access to information
3. Past and current experiences with programs

Additionally, the survey will take approximately 15-30 minutes to complete after which participants will have an opportunity to complete the recontact form should they wish to receive an honorarium.

### **Compensation**

While participation in this survey is voluntary, only eligible participants will be able to qualify for the \$25 honorarium should they complete the Request for recontact form. The information provided in the Recontact form will be stored separately from the data in the online survey and will be used solely to process the honorariums via e-transfers. Participants must click the link title *confirmation for recontact* and complete the form to receive payment. Compensation will be provided to each participant once and sent to the email address provided. Participants will also be able to withdraw from participating in the study at any time; however, failure to complete the recontact form will result in forgoing payment. The researcher, Domino staff and project

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affiliates will not be held responsible for participants not completing the recontact form. Additionally, confidentiality of personal information provided in this study cannot be guaranteed while data is in transit over the internet. If you have questions about participation and/or your eligibility for compensation, please contact us at the email address provided below.

### **Potential Risks**

The Domino Project: Black LGBTQ+ Youth Needs Assessment intends to do no harm to participants or the community at large. However, we acknowledge that there may be discomforts that arise as participants reflect on their experiences navigating youth programming. We also acknowledge that reflecting on access to programming may also evoke an emotional response since social and systemic violence directly affects Black LGBTQ+ individuals health and wellbeing. In response to any potential triggers, we have committed to having youth access mental health supports at Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre as well as peer support via the Domino Project should they experience any discomfort. Youth who are interested in receiving virtual counseling services can contact the Intake worker at Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre at 416.703.8482 Ext. 2106. Participants can also email [dproject@pqwchc.ca](mailto:dproject@pqwchc.ca) to request peer support or be connected to formal supports at the health centre.

To reduce the potential risk described in this study, participants will be able to complete the survey online anonymously. They will also be able to withdraw their participation at any time given time. As a community-based participatory study, participants will be asked to share past and current experiences related to accessing programs, accessing information about programs and challenges they may have experienced while accessing programs. The reflections on past and current experiences may bring up unfavorable memories. The research study is designed to minimize as much as possible risks for the participants. Only non-identifiable information will be shared in the published report and in any of the presentations to maintain the integrity of the study.

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## **Benefits**

The findings will collectively benefit Black LGBTQ youth, our funder and the Black Queer Youth Collective. Findings from the study will help to contribute to the growing database on LGBTQ youth and Black youth. The findings will also highlight information specific to the experiences of Black LGBTQ youth and can be used in the future to for interventions and programming for vulnerable youth.

The Black Queer Youth Collective will also benefit from the findings and be able to adapt our current program to better align with new and emerging needs of Black LGBTQ+ youth in Ontario. Furthermore, participants will benefit both directly and indirectly from participating in the online study.

Findings from the study will be used to inform the development of a community report which will help to improve programs and services offered to Black LGBTQ youth. All eligible research participants will receive an honorarium for their contributions to the study.

## **Data Privacy and Confidentiality**

To avoid potential misuse of the data collected, findings from this community needs assessment will not include any identifiable information. All data will be collected anonymously and stored on a secured drive with data encryption protection. The data access will also be restricted to avoid potential misuse once the survey closes in September. The researcher will be the only person with access to the raw data and will be responsible for ensuring the data protection and privacy. The findings will also be stored indefinitely but with restricted access to avoid potential misuse once the survey closes in September.

The lead researcher will also hold in strict confidence any information provided to support the processing of honorarium to participants. Participants personal information such as email addresses that were provided to support electronic transfers of honorarium will also be stored separately on the secure drive with data encryption protection for a maximum of 1 year after the research concludes. While efforts have been made to maintain

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confidentiality, we cannot guarantee the security of the data while being processed electronically over the internet.

### **Sharing the results**

Findings from this Needs Assessment will be publicly available for download in the Fall of 2020. Anyone who is interested in the findings including other researchers, community members, service providers who work with Black youth and/or LGBTQ youth or organizations seeking to better serve diverse youth can contact us.

### **Contact us:**

If you have any questions or inquires about this needs assessment or would like to connect with the research lead. Please email Tatiana Ferguson at [tatiana.ferguson@hotmail.com](mailto:tatiana.ferguson@hotmail.com) or the Domino Project at [dproject@pqwchc.ca](mailto:dproject@pqwchc.ca).

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