Community Theatre Event - Letter of information

October 15, 2026

Greetings,

The public is invited to a forum theatre production on Indigenous-Mennonite relations taking place on November 23 and 26, 2026, in Kitchener and Guelph. This letter outlines the research connected to the event. The production mobilizes findings from Janna Martin's PhD dissertation research while also creating an opportunity to gather additional perspectives on the topic. The artistic collective is co-led by forum theatre practitioner Dr. Amir Al-Azraki, and Janna's doctoral research is supervised by Dr. Kim Anderson. Janna, who is employed by the Centre for Community Based Research (CCBR), is also coordinating the project.

The study's funding includes

- Janna Martin's Canadian Graduate Scholarship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
- Waterloo Region arts fund
- Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation
- Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario Fretz fund
- Brubacher House, Artists in Residence

The study findings will be shared in a variety of ways, such as in Janna's dissertation, which may be published as a book, in conference presentations, and in other publications. An open-access report will be posted on CCBR's news page in 2027.

There are benefits and risks of participating in this research. The potential benefits of this research include:

- Gain professional development in reconciliation, allyship, and settler decolonization.
- Expand personal and professional networks with other Indigenous leaders and non-Indigenous allies.
- Meaningfully contribute to a forum theatre play that tells a story of Indigenous-Mennonite relations in Waterloo Region.

There are low risks associated with participating in this research. Some people may find the topic of Indigenous-settler relations uncomfortable or upsetting. You may choose to step out of the room or stop participating in the study at any time. If you experience any discomfort during the study, you are encouraged to contact a mental health professional in your area, or the researchers (contact information is provided below). Health Line provides a list of mental health services, help and supports in Waterloo Region (https://www.wwhealthline.ca/listServices.aspx?id=10237)

Only members of the research team will have access to the data: Dr. Kim Anderson and Janna Martin. We are all committed to keeping what you say at the event confidential. Data will be collected

through notes taken by Janna on her laptop and stored in an encrypted folder on a password protected laptop. This may include the activities and movements, dialogue, and generally how participants engage. These notes will not include identifying information. The workshop notes will be kept for 5 years after Janna's dissertation defense, after which they will be electronically deleted.

Photographs will be taken during the event to document the activities. By entering the room, you consent to your photo being taken. If you do not want your photo taken, please let the photographer know when you enter the room. Selected photographs will be used in publications (academic or grey literature) or presentations to depict the significance of the forum theatre activity. The photos will be kept by Janna Martin for an indefinite period to allow for ongoing publication and reflection.

You do not have to participate in this research. You are free to withdraw at any time, with no consequences. However, if you withdraw from the event, the comments you have made up to that point will be included in the study because they will be part of the anonymized notes. You do not waive any legal rights by agreeing to take part in this study.

If you have any questions about this study, you are welcome to contact Janna Martin at jmarti50@uoguelph.ca or Dr. Kim Anderson kimberle@uoguelph.ca.

If you have questions regarding your rights and welfare as a research participant in this study (REB#143), please contact: Manager, Research Ethics; University of Guelph; reb@uoguelph.ca; (519) 824-4120 (ext. 56606)

This project has been reviewed by the Research Ethics Board for compliance with federal guidelines for research involving human participants (REB#143).