



**LETTER OF INFORMATION**  
**GROCERY WORKER SURVEY**

**Study Title:** *Health, Precarity, and the Workplace: Canadian Grocery Store Workers in the Post-COVID-19 Era*

**Principal Investigator:** Alexandra Overvelde, PhD Candidate, Department of Geography and Planning, Queen's University

**Thesis Supervisor:** Dr. Patricia Collins, Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Planning, Queen's University

**Funding Agency:** Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

**Study Details:**

This project aims to assess the relationship between working conditions, health, and well-being of unionized and non-unionized grocery store workers in Ontario. As a grocery store worker, the researcher is keen to hear about your experiences.

The survey will take you 10 to 15 minutes to complete. The survey consists of seven sections: working conditions; precarity; health; housing security; food security; work-life balance; and demographics. At the end of the survey, there is a question asking if you would be willing to participate in a follow-up interview about your experiences as a grocery store worker. The interview would occur over Zoom and explore your workplace experiences, and how those experiences relate to your life outside of work. There are no direct benefits to you as a participant. The study results will offer critical information on the well-being of workers in the grocery industry in Ontario.

Your participation is voluntary. You may find some questions in the survey to be upsetting or stressful to answer. You do not have to answer any questions you do not want to, and you can stop your participation at any time during the survey by simply closing your Internet browser. The survey will collect some personal information from participants. You will be asked to indicate your age, gender, and the first three digits of your postal code. You will also be able to provide your email if you wish to be contacted about participating in an interview at a later date. The study data will be stored on an encrypted hard drive on Queen's University servers. The code file that links emails and study ID numbers will be stored securely and separately from the data. If you choose to withdraw, all data gathered from your survey will be securely destroyed and not included in the analysis. To withdraw, you can close the browser at any time; however, surveys that are at least 80% completed will be retained.

There are organizations and their representatives that may look at or receive copies of some of the information in your study records for data analysis and quality assurance for monitoring, control, safety, and security. These may include members of the study team, as delegated by the principal investigator; authorized Representatives of Queen's University, its affiliated hospitals and/or Queen's University



General Research Ethics Board (GREB). The anonymized survey data set will be made freely accessible in the Queen's University's Institutional Repository after a 5-year embargo period.

I plan to publish the results of this study in academic journals, present them at conferences, post a summary report to the project website and share this report with union stakeholders. Prior to analysis, the survey data will be stripped of identifying information, and results will only be reported in aggregate form.

This study has received ethical approval from the Queen's University General Research Ethics Board. If you have any ethics concerns, please contact the General Research Ethics Board (GREB) at 1-844-535-2988 (Toll free in North America) or [chair.GREB@queensu.ca](mailto:chair.GREB@queensu.ca). If you have any questions about the research, please contact me at [a.overvelde@queensu.ca](mailto:a.overvelde@queensu.ca).

This Letter of Information provides you with the details to help you make an informed choice. All your questions should be answered to your satisfaction before you decide whether or not to participate in this research study. Please keep a copy of the Letter of Information for your records.

You have not waived any legal rights by consenting to participate in this study. If you wish to proceed to the survey, please click NEXT at the bottom of this page.