



OKANAGAN

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### **Health Study for Lesbian and Bisexual Women**

We are conducting a study designed to explore lesbian and bisexual women's health care practices. The reason for the study is that we are very concerned whether lesbian and bisexual women are actively and successfully able to negotiate appropriate health care especially around the more intimate issues such as breast cancer and cancer of the uterus.

As a lesbian or bisexual woman –

- have you had difficulty talking to, or ever been hesitant to raise, a health concern with a health professional?
- have you ever felt as if your health concern has not been taken seriously because of your sexual identity?
- have you ever had a serious health problem and what was that experience like for you?
- what do you do to stay healthy?

The research team is keen to talk with you about your health care experiences either individually or as part of a group, based on your preference. Your participation would help us explore the health needs of lesbian and bisexual women and their experiences in accessing services. It will enable us to explore the issues that affect relationships with health care professionals. We are especially interested in how sexual orientation influences access and participation in prevention, early detection, and treatment of problems particularly those associated with breast and reproductive health. Finally, we hope that the information we gain through this process with you will increase understanding of how health professionals can support lesbian and bisexual women in meeting their own health care needs.

We hope you will benefit by:

- Having opportunities to network and share resource information;
- Increasing awareness of your own needs and those of other lesbian and bisexual women in your local community;
- Gaining greater confidence in expressing your health needs;
- Having past experiences validated and finding new ways to work with health care University of British Columbia Okanagan providers.

If you are interested in sharing your stories please contact either Laurie Macdonald or Penny Cash and leave a message if we are not available to answer your call. The information you share with us will be treated as confidential.

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