



Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child has chosen to participate in Rural eMentoring BC's online mentoring program. We are very excited to welcome them to our program and provide them with a safe and supportive mentoring experience.

What is Rural eMentoring BC?

This program was developed by the [Rural Education Action Plan](#) and the University of British Columbia to provide mentoring opportunities to rural youth. Program funding comes from Doctors of BC, and is distributed through the [Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues](#). There is no fee or cost to participating in this program and we are a not-for-profit organization.

What does your child's participation in the program look like?

With your permission, the eMentoring staff will match your child to a volunteer mentor who is a post-secondary student in or from BC. Their mentor's role is to be a near-peer role model and an older, wiser friend.

To avoid sharing personal and contact information, your child and their mentor will communicate by sending messages to each other through an online mentoring platform called [MentorCity](#). To access MentorCity, your child will need to create a free MentorCity account, for which they must provide a valid email address and their first and last name. In order for the eMentoring staff to match your child to a compatible mentor, he/she/they will create a profile where they describe their characteristics/attributes, defining experiences, future goals, and mentoring preferences.

In the program, your child may choose to do activities that explore academic success, allyship, career options, post-secondary choices, and much more.

Safety and Privacy

We take the following steps to ensure the safety and privacy of our participants:

- **Information access:** Only the eMentoring and MentorCity staff will have access to your child's last name and email address and this information will not be shared with any other parties, including your child's mentor. Your child's profile will be visible to MentorCity, the eMentoring staff, and your child's mentor. Profiles will not contain any personal information.
- **Data storage:** MentorCity is a Canadian company that stores their data on servers located in Canada and does not sell their data to third parties. Rural eMentoring BC operates within the University of British Columbia and exclusively uses the University's data storage systems, all of which are FIPPA compliant.
- **Communication:** eMentoring's agreement with MentorCity ensures that your child will only be able to communicate with their mentor while on the platform.
- **Confidentiality and appropriateness:** Upon entering the program, mentors and mentees agree to respect their match's privacy (except when safety is at stake), and refrain from

sending inappropriate messages and sharing personal information. Read [our full list of policies](#).

- Monitoring and Oversight: All communications are monitored by the eMentoring and MentorCity staff. MentorCity is able to automatically recognize and remove most personal information if it is shared. The eMentoring staff is able to remove any inappropriate messages and reserves the right to ban any participant for inappropriate conduct.
- Mentors: Mentors are vetted and trained prior to mentoring a student. They must have a valid Criminal Record Check and complete training in cultural sensitivity and competency, handling difficult situations, and providing appropriate support to youth. Please [contact us](#) if you would like more information about how our mentors are selected and trained.

Data collection

Throughout the program your child will have the option to complete surveys that ask about their future goals and about their experiences in the program. By signing this consent form, you agree that, if your child chooses to complete the surveys, their anonymous answers can be used in a research project called "Rural eMentoring BC: Evaluation of Program Phase 1" that studies how programs like this impact youth. There are no risks to participating, as all answers will remain anonymous and will be aggregated. If you have questions about the research project, or you wish to opt out of the surveys, please contact the primary researcher, Juliet Oshiro, at juliet.oshiro@ubc.ca. If you have any concerns or complaints about you/your child's rights as a research participant and/or their experiences while participating in this study, contact the Research Participant Complaint Line in the UBC Office of Research Ethics at 604-822-8598 or if long distance e-mail RSIL@ors.ubc.ca or call toll free 1-877-822-8598. **Your child can still participate in the mentoring program if they/you choose to opt out of the surveys.**

Questions and concerns

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns about the information you have just read.

- Email: e.mentoring@ubc.ca | Phone: (604) 827-4197

I have read the above information and give consent for my child to participate in the eMentoring program. I will contact the eMentoring staff if I have any questions or concerns.

Parent/Guardian Name

Student Name

Signature

Date

