Phase 2 of our study is currently underway! Phase 1 of this four-year federally funded SSHRC project is nearing completion, with over 585 parents aged 50+ from Greater Vancouver’s Iranian, Chinese, South Asian and British cultural communities having already participated in telephone interviews.

Currently, we are re-contacting participants from Phase 1 who expressed interest in taking part in our follow-up study. This second phase involves in-depth face-to-face interviews with midlife/later life parents, adult children and also with some grandparents. In this phase, we are trying to gain a more detailed understanding of how parental transitions to retirement intersect with the lives and transitions of their young adult children and their elderly parents. For example, we are interested in learning more about how family living arrangements, relationships, cultural background and family caregiving responsibilities shape important retirement decisions and planning. All respondents will receive a $20 gift card for their participation and all information will remain strictly confidential/anonymous as per SFU ethics policies.

It is expected that the knowledge generated by this research will garner exciting and timely social, cultural, and public policy related findings of relevance to a broad range of Canadian families. This will be accomplished through rigorous quantitative and qualitative analysis of how and why multiple family members behave, think and make meaning in their daily lives amidst rapid social and economic changes. These changes include such aspects as: an aging population; the impact of globalization and economic ups and downs; immigration trends and challenges; and changing family roles and household structures.

Community and academic knowledge sharing opportunities related to this research are expected to begin in early 2017. For further information, please contact Dr. Barbara Mitchell (mitchelo@sfu.ca) at 778-782-5234.