

# PROJECT DESCRIPTION FORM

**Chapter:** University of Saskatchewan

**Program year:** 2024-2025

**Project Name:** Legal Rights of People with Dementia

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## SECTION A – ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

- 1. Name of Organization:** Sherbrooke Community Centre
- 2. Mailing Address of Organization:** 401 Acadia Dr, Saskatoon, SK, S7H2E7
- 3. Website of Organization:** <https://www.sherbrookecommunitycentre.ca>

**4. Type of Organization:**

- Charity
- Not-for-profit
- Association
- Government
- University
- Law firm
- Other

**5. Brief overview of the organization's mandate (2 to 4 lines maximum):**

Sherbrooke Community Centre creates a community that supports each person to live a full and abundant life. Elder-directed care is the cornerstone of their community. Sherbrooke Community Centre is Care Partner that acknowledges that opportunities to give, as well as receive, care are abundant and should be experienced by everyone involved in the care relationship.

**6. Organization Contact Person**

While students should cc all the contacts when communicating with Sherbrooke, the main contact person and primary decision-maker will be Deb Schick.

Primary Contact Name: Deb Schick  
Title: Leader Professional Practice  
Telephone Number: (306) 655-3616  
Email Address: [deb.schick@saskhealthauthority.ca](mailto:deb.schick@saskhealthauthority.ca)

Name: Melinda Sweeney  
Title: Nurse Manager  
Telephone Number: (306) 655-3769  
Email Address: [melinda.sweeney@saskhealthauthority.ca](mailto:melinda.sweeney@saskhealthauthority.ca)

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Name: Shawn Emard  
Title: Registered Nurse - Sherbrooke  
Telephone Number: (306) 202-7167  
Email Address: [shawn.emard@usask.ca](mailto:shawn.emard@usask.ca)

7. Preferred mode of contact: Phone  Email

8. Lawyer supervisor(s)

*Note: For certain projects, students work with a roster of lawyers. In such instances, please include the information of all lawyer supervisors, and indicate who the lead lawyer/key point of contact is.*

Type of Lawyer Supervisor:

*Note: Please check only **ONE** of the following.*

- Lawyer Supervisor - Insured  
 Lawyer Supervisor – Expert (*must attach Lawyer Supervisor – Expert Checklist*)

Name: Connie den Hollander  
Title: Lawyer  
Organization/Firm: Transitions Legal Solutions  
Telephone Number: (306) 664-6900  
Email Address: [connie@transitionslegal.ca](mailto:connie@transitionslegal.ca)

The lawyer supervisor is:

- An employee of your organization  
 A board member  
 Other – Connie has experience in elder law and assisting seniors in legal matters.

9. How often will the lawyer supervisor be available to meet with the student(s)? The Lawyer Supervisor will be able to meet with the students as required.

10. Can student volunteers on this project complete their work virtually and from home?

Yes  No  But students have the option (not mandatory) to visit the Sherbrooke Community Center, tour the facilities with a staff member, and talk with different people to gain a helpful understanding of the research topic.

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## SECTION B – PROJECT INFORMATION

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## 11. Please describe the project tasks:

### Description of Project

How do we keep patients and residents with dementia and their care staff safe without violating the patients' and residents' rights in long term care settings? To keep everyone safe, people with dementia are often locked in their units/neighbourhoods and much of their abilities to make their own choices are taken away. While this can mimic incarceration, the criminal system comes with extensive protocols and guidelines on when a person must stay in isolation or within an enclosed space. To help the Sherbrooke staff provide safe and superior care for their residents with dementia, student volunteers will conduct research on laws and policies concerning the rights for people living with dementia in Saskatchewan.

- Does keeping a person with dementia locked in their unit violate their human rights? Why or why not?
- How is safety for healthcare providers and people with dementia defined and weighed against each other?
  - What are the legal ramifications of medical providers if their patient with dementia gets hurt? For example, what if the nurses decided to give their resident with dementia freedom to go outside their unit, and the resident got into a pedestrian-car accident?
- What is the process for determining whether a healthcare provider can make decisions on behalf of a person with dementia?
  - That is, how is someone with dementia declared legally incompetent to make their own medical and everyday lifestyle decisions? When does someone with dementia lose their ability to make their own medical decisions?
  - Is this a one-time evaluation or does it need to be repeatedly reassessed?
- If the person with dementia is considered legally incompetent to make their own choices, how do you assess whether a healthcare provider and family members are facilitating a good quality of life to the person with dementia?
- How does power of attorney and advanced healthcare directives come into play for people with dementia?
  - What kind of requests are legally bound (for e.g., requests for daily walks vs. do not resuscitate)?
  - What are the consequences if a substitute decision-maker:
    - Intentionally makes a medical decision against the individual's written requests?
    - Intentionally makes a decision when the individual is able to make their own medical decisions?
- When should a person with dementia or their proxy seek legal assistance due to unfair treatment?

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## Role of Student Volunteers

- Create a research memo in plain language but with proper citations, for the organizations use on the topic described above.
  - Student volunteers are not to engage with interpretation of the law nor make value judgements on behalf of the organization.
- Optional (not mandatory): At the start of the year, students are invited to visit one of Sherbrooke's neighbourhoods with one of the staff members and engage in the following activity to better grasp the research topic.
  - Talk with nurses, other staff members, residents, and the residents' families.
  - Explore the neighbourhood.
  - Visit a housing unit or room where residents with dementia are kept in isolation.

*\*All materials will be reviewed by the organization and lawyer supervisor for accuracy. A PBSC disclaimer must also be included in the memo.\**

## Role of Supervising Lawyers

The Lawyer Supervisor will ensure the students' research memo is an accurate reflection of the law in Canada and Saskatchewan.

## Which types of law are used in this project?

Elder law, health law, medical consent, human rights

## 12. What is the main project deliverable?

Select **ONE** option.

- A.  Creating produced content (e.g. research memos, brochures, podcasts, etc.)
- B.  Completing client intake and assistance (e.g. completing client intake, providing client referrals, helping clients with their ID documents, etc.)
- C.  Presenting public legal education (e.g. in-person or virtual presentations, workshops, training sessions, etc.)

## 13. If you checked boxes A or C in question 12, above, do you consent to the Student Volunteer(s) sending to PBSC a copy of the project deliverable? Please note it is your responsibility to collect and retain any project deliverable or documentation required to carry out the work set out in this Form. If you consent to PBSC saving a copy of the project deliverable (this strictly applies to Research and Public Legal Education projects), the documents will be securely saved and used solely for the purposes of monitoring the progression of the project, informing project development, and offering efficient continuity to returning projects, and will not be reproduced, shared, or used outside of these stated purposes.

- A.  I consent to PBSC saving a duplicate of the project deliverable.
- B.  I do not consent to PBSC saving a duplicate of the project deliverable.

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**14. If you checked boxes B or C in question 12, above, what is your plan for distribution of PBSC's Client Impact Survey?**

**Note: PBSC's Client Impact Survey** is an important tool that allows our organization to measure client satisfaction and impact, report to stakeholders, and improve our programming. The Client Impact Survey is available through Qualtrics, which meets all federal and provincial privacy and security laws (data is stored in Canada).

For client intake and assistance projects, the student volunteers will set aside time to share the Client Impact Survey hyperlink and QR Code at the end of client meetings. Volunteers will be provided with the hyperlink and QR Code at the start of their placements. Where appropriate, printed copies of the survey may be used as long as there is a protocol in place to safeguard client confidentiality.

For public legal education presentations, the student volunteers will set aside time to share the Client Impact Survey hyperlink and QR Code with the participants at the end of the session. The hyperlink and QR Code will be embedded in the last slide of the presentation where possible. Volunteers will be provided with the hyperlink and QR Code at the start of their placements. Where appropriate, printed copies of the survey may be used as long as there is a protocol in place to safeguard participant confidentiality

Other. If neither of the above options are an appropriate means of distributing PBSC's Client Impact Survey for this project, please explain your plan for distribution.

**15. A work plan is required for this project:** Yes  No

*If yes, the student(s) must reach out to the lawyer supervisor, draft a work plan, and submit it by email to the Program Coordinator and the lawyer supervisor by November 1st at the latest. Please note that workplans are required for all legal research and writing projects.*

**16. Is this a joint project with students from any other PBSC chapters?** Yes  No

**17. What type of training will the organization provide to the student(s)?**

*Note: All first year PBSC volunteers and all volunteers working on research projects must also attend a PBSC/Thomson Reuters legal research strategies workshop.*

Students will receive general training from PBSC.

**18. How many students would you like assigned to this project?**

2 students

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**19. How many hours per week will the student volunteer(s) be expected to work?**

*Note: PBSC students are expected to volunteer 3-5 hours per week. Additional hours are at the students' discretion, but at no time should the student be volunteering more than 10 hours per week.*

Students are expected to volunteer 3-5 hours per week.

**20. Will the student(s) be expected to show up for regular shifts each week, or is the schedule flexible?**

The work will be flexible, but students will be expected to work together on a regular basis and meet deadlines.

**21. Is workspace provided for the student volunteer(s) at your organization?** Yes  No

**22. Please list the devices and technologies the students will require to have at home in order to complete their volunteer work remotely (ex. Computer, Internet access, telephone, FaceTime, Zoom, etc.)**

Students will need access to a computer, internet and Zoom.

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## SECTION C – STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

**23. Is there an expectation for the student(s) to be bilingual?** Yes  No

**24. Can first year law students volunteer for this project?** Yes  No

**25. Please list any law school prerequisites required for this project. (e.g., administrative law, family law, immigration and refugee law.)**

There are no prerequisites for this project, but those who have been involved with SCOA or Sherbrooke in the past or have taken Elder Law, Law and Psychiatry, and Health Law would be given preference.

**26. Please list any other requirements or expectations for this project. (e.g., professional or academic background, experience, etc.)**

There are no requirements, but experience with the elderly would be considered an asset.

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## SECTION D – TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

**27. Which project model(s) most accurately describes this project?** If the project has multiple activities, please choose a **maximum of 3** project models. In order to obtain the most accurate data, please only select the project models that describe the majority of the project's activities. If the relevant project model is not indicated below, please contact your Program Officer.

Public Legal Education (presentations, workshops, podcasts, brochures, blogs, etc.)

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- Research (memoranda used for internal purposes only)
- Client services (court forms, shadowing, mock hearings, intake, legal clinic, etc.)
- Other (please specify)

**28. Which communities does this project serve?** Please identify the top **3** communities that this project serves. Please choose the primary (1), secondary (2) and tertiary (3) communities served by writing 1, 2, or 3 next to the community. This will help us understand gaps in our programming, resource allocation and provide us with information for funding proposals and reports. We understand that due to the intersectionality of identities, it is difficult to rank the top three communities served. Please note that by ranking, you are not prioritizing any issues, or communities. If you would like to add any comments, please use the comment box below.

- \_\_\_ Children & Youth
- \_\_\_ Domestic Violence Survivors
- \_\_\_ Women
- \_\_\_ Homeless & marginally housed
- \_\_\_ Immigrants, refugees & newcomers
- \_\_\_ Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit, Métis)
- \_\_\_ LGBTQ+
- \_\_\_ Linguistic minorities
- \_\_\_ People living in poverty
- 2 People living with disabilities & chronic illnesses
- \_\_\_ People living with HIV
- 3 People living with mental health challenges
- \_\_\_ Precariously employed individuals
- \_\_\_ Prisoners & former prisoners
- \_\_\_ Racialized communities
- \_\_\_ Religious minority communities
- \_\_\_ Self-represented litigants
- 1 Seniors
- \_\_\_ Trans and gender diverse individuals
- \_\_\_ Two-Spirit individuals
- \_\_\_ Veterans
- \_\_\_ Other: General Project – no specific community being served

**Project reviewed by On-site Supervisor**

*Heather Heavin*

Signature

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Aug 21, 2024  
Date

**Note: A final/complete copy of this Project Description Form must be provided to:**

- The Organization Contact Person
- The Lawyer Supervisor(s)
- The Student Volunteer(s)
- Your Program Officer at National Office