

PBSC UVIC PROJECT GUIDE

2023-2024

PB pro bono
students canada
SC réseau national
d'étudiant(e)s
pro bono

UNIVERSITY OF
VICTORIA CHAPTER

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We acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

As members of Pro Bono Students Canada supporting access to justice on this land, we acknowledge the colonial legal system's role in perpetuating the ongoing violence against Indigenous peoples and commit to working in solidarity towards reconciliation and supporting Indigenous self-determination.

Territory Acknowledgement

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About PBSC

Who We Are

PBSC is a national pro bono organization with Chapters at 22 law schools across the country. Our mission is to provide free legal support to people and communities facing barriers to justice. Each year, over 1,500 PBSC volunteers provide approximately 120,000 hours of free legal services to organizations, courts and tribunals across the country. PBSC volunteers draft research memoranda, develop and deliver legal education workshops, assist lawyers and duty counsel with client intake, help clients with document preparation, and provide legal information to clients of Partner Organizations. PBSC also has an impact on the profession's pro bono culture: 89% of PBSC Student Volunteers report that they plan to provide pro bono services upon graduation.

Vision

We envision a society with accessible legal systems, where the dignity and rights of every person are upheld.

Mission

We provide free legal support to people and communities facing barriers to justice.

Values



PBSC UVic

PBSC at the University of Victoria Faculty of Law

PBSC UVic was founded in 2004 and has become an integral part of many UVic law students' educational experiences. In recent years, between 50-80 law students have volunteered with PBSC-UVic annually. UVic law students volunteer for student projects with Partner Organizations, and all deliverables are reviewed by a Lawyer Supervisor. PBSC-UVic has also become known in the non-profit community on Vancouver Island and beyond. We partner with approximately 15-25 non-profit organizations in our community every year and have developed long-standing relationships with a number of well-established community organizations

September Events and Training

Information Session: September 9th from 12:30 – 1:20 PM, room 159

This event will have lunch! This event provides a general overview of PBSC UVic and an opportunity to ask questions.

Launch Event: September 27th from 5-7 PM

Founder of Y, the biggest female-led law firm, and UVic alumnus **Leena Yousefi** will be giving a keynote speech on her experience with access to justice. Appetizers will be provided. This event is for volunteers placed on a project. Volunteers are encouraged to RSVP.

General Training: September 28th from 12:30 – 1:20 PM, room TBD

All PBSC volunteers who are placed on a project are required to attend PBSC General Training on September 28th from 12:30 to 1:30 PM. Attendance will be taken.

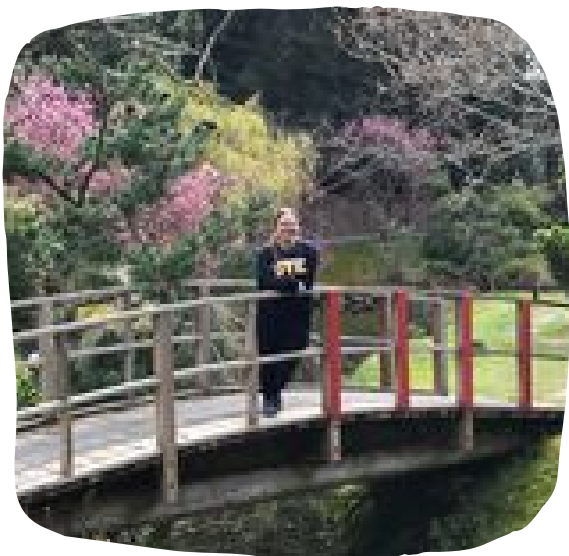
Program Coordinators



Knowren Ansari

Summer & School Year Coordinator

Knowren Ansari (she/her) and Brooklynn Malec (she/her) are your PBSC Program Coordinators. We organize volunteer projects with Partner Organizations and Lawyer Supervisors, and recruit and train student volunteers. We are eager to build excitement about access to justice initiatives and public interest law at UVic this year! You can find us in the PBSC office during our regular office hours, or we are always available via email through pbsceuvic.ca if you have any questions.



Brooklynn Malec

School Year Coordinator

Executive Committee



Alexandra Calbery (she/her) is our **Social Media and Marketing Coordinator**. Feel free to share any meaningful PBSC stories with Alex for a feature on PBSC-UVic's social media pages at acalbery@uvic.ca



Jenissa Sunderji (She/her) is our **Events Coordinator**. She helps create and support our events which include volunteer appreciation events, information sessions, our launch event, and panels. Feel free to reach out to Jenissa at jsunderji@uvic.ca if you have any questions about the events or suggestions.

Executive Committee



Eric Shapiro (he/him) is our **Research Team Member**. If you are experiencing any challenges during the research process for your PBSC projects, feel free to reach out to Eric at eshapiro@uvic.ca. The research team will help you with any questions or concerns that come up throughout the research and writing process.



Zachary Currie (he/him) is our **1L Representative**. He is here to foster communication and connection between the PBSC Program and the 1L class. Most of our volunteers are 1L students, and Zack is the person to contact if you are a 1L student who has questions about PBSC at zachcurrie@gmail.com

2023-2024 Schedule

September

- General Training and Anti-Oppression Training
- Contact Partner Organization and Lawyer Supervisor
- Launch Event!!

October

- WestLaw Next Canada training
- First meeting with Partner Organization and Lawyer Supervisor
- Develop work plan and begin working on your project

November

- Work plan due November 1st
- Check-in meeting with Program Coordinators

December

- **No PBSC Work this month!**
- Volunteer Appreciation Event

January

- Resume work on project after December break
- Applications open for 2023-2024 PBSC Program Coordinator positions

February

- Check-in meeting with Program Coordinators

March

- Submit draft of your final deliverable to your Lawyer Supervisor
- Fill out online impact survey and submit completed Volunteer Report
- Volunteer Appreciation event and Chief Justice Richard Wagner awards

April

- PBSC projects are complete!

Student Projects



Public Legal Education

These projects involve sharing legal information and resources with clients and communities. They can take the form of plain-language brochures, presentations, web-based resources or infographics.



Client Services

These projects provide legal services directly to clients with the support of a Supervising Lawyer. They often involve helping clients with applications, legal forms and the process for changing or applying for identification.



Research and Writing

These projects involve engaging in legal research to address a specific topic or research question which will support the Partner Organization in their work. Deliverables may include a research memo or literature review.

How to Apply

Complete the online application on our website or linked below before **Friday, Sept 22nd, 2022 at 11:59 p.m.**

<https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/GKP27FC>

When completing the application, be sure to research which Partner Organization you would like to work with and the type of project you would like to engage in.

You are encouraged to apply for all placements you are interested in, regardless of experience. Last year PBSC UVic offered 82 student placements.

Be sure to include **WHY** you would be a good fit for the projects you are interested in. We will do our best to match students with projects they are passionate about.

Student Volunteer FAQs

What do I gain from being involved with PBSC?

Your PBSC volunteer placement may be rewarding on a number of levels. You will gain various skills that apply in the practice of law such as drafting, legal research communication and working with clients. You may gain meaningful connections with community organizations and practicing lawyers. It is also an opportunity to give back through sharing your talent and time with communities facing barriers to justice.

How structured will my project be?

The structure of each project varies. Some projects are scheduled on specific days and times, while others are more self-directed. The structure will be found in your project description form and can be maintained through regular contact with the Partner Organization and Lawyer Supervisor.

Can I fit PBSC into my schedule?

All PBSC projects are designed for **3-5 hours** of student time per week. PBSC projects are put on hold during December, and conclude in March to accommodate the final exam periods. Our PBSC Program Coordinators are also sensitive to important deadlines and busy periods during the year, particularly for the IL class.

Who is eligible to apply for a PBSC project?

Any student who is enrolled in the University of Victoria Faculty of Law may apply for a PBSC project. This includes students who are on a co-op work term. Students who will be participating in a semester exchange are not eligible to apply as projects are year long.

Will I get class credit for my PBSC project?

You do not receive class credit for PBSC student volunteer projects.

What is the difference between PBSC and Access Pro Bono?

PBSC and Access Pro Bono are two separate entities who share an office in the Fraser Building. PBSC organizes pro bono student placements with Partner Organizations that are supervised by a lawyer. Access Pro Bono is a free lawyer referral service for clients seeking pro bono legal help.

Are projects remote or in-person? Is there a plan if the public health situation changes?

The majority of our 2022-2023 projects can be performed remotely. If a project involves an in-person component, this is indicated in the project description and there will be an alternative plan for remote delivery that depends on student comfort, university guidelines and the public health situation.



2023 – 2024

Project List

LEGEND



Public Legal Education Project



Type of law



Client Services Project



Joint project
with multiple
PBSC chapters



Research and writing project


Miscellaneous Projects

#1: Access to Justice for BC Youth in Family Law

Organization: Access to Justice BC (A2JBC)

Description: Students from UBC, TRU and UVic will learn about and contribute to work that will improve access to justice and intersectoral systems change via the Transform the Family Justice System Collaborative. This work will raise awareness on how the family justice system can prioritize youth and family well-being and life outcomes beyond the court structure. This includes ways in which service providers across fields (medical, legal, etc.) can work together laterally to reduce harm. Child-centred and family-wellbeing focused justice recognizes how ACEs impact people throughout their lives, not just when they are directly engaged with the family justice system. The traditional adversarial court process can exacerbate the impacts of ACEs.

Volunteer: Seeking one student. Experience and/or interest in child and youth law, justice sector innovation/transformation and a background working with diverse communities, are assets. Lived experiences in the family justice system are highly valued.



Access to Justice
Family Law
May touch on
other types of law
such as: health,
civil, and
alternative dispute
resolution.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE BC

#2: Refugee Claims Presentation

Organization: Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society (CVIMS)

Description: Newcomers to Canada are often unfamiliar with the process and logistics behind refugee claims. Further, many of them are not fluent in English, making it more difficult for them to understand the application and what is required of them. Student volunteers will conduct legal research on refugee claims and create a PowerPoint that outlines all of the relevant findings. Students will present the PowerPoint to CVIMS clients in March.

Volunteer: Seeking two students. Students who are bilingual, have taken family law, and/or have lived experience or a background working with newcomers or refugees are preferred, but this is not required.



Family Law
Immigration Law
Human Rights Law



#3: Upper Skeena Internship

Partner Organization: Upper Skeena Counselling & Legal Assistance Society (USCLAS)

Description: Student volunteers will help USCLAS with their community legal work and identify potential policy issues impacting USCLAS and their clients. The goal of this project is to support USCLAS in reducing barriers to justice for clients in northwest British Columbia. Topics include driving while prohibited, city of terrace legal aid, family law, and various ethical issues in rural British Columbia. This is an internship, and as such assigned tasks may change during the volunteer term. Linda Locke will guide and support students in their roles.

Volunteers: Seeking four students. Enrolment in the JD/JID program considered an asset.



Family Law
Criminal Law
Indigenous Legal Orders
Poverty Law



#4: Investigating the Implications of Artificial Intelligence in

Partner Organization: Esquimalt Community Arts Hub (ECAH)

Description: As a new and emerging field, ECAH would like students to research how AI is currently being handled within the legal system in terms of copyright, ownership of AI-generated images and text, as well as how artists may be able to protect themselves from infringement. Student volunteers will begin by conducting research on the implications of AI on art and learning. Students will then present their findings to ECAH and a number of their members.

Volunteers: Seeking two students. Those with experience working in the arts/who have an arts background or a keen interest in working in the arts non-profit sector will be given priority.



Entertainment Law
Contract Law
Intellectual Property



#5: Reverse Mortgages for Seniors

Partner Organization: Saanich Volunteer Services Society (SVSS)

Description: Students will explore reverse mortgages through legal research. This will entail looking into various sub-topics regarding reverse mortgages including how they work, what the benefits and risks are, and what happens when the individual passes away. Students will create a PowerPoint deck outlining their findings in plain language. If time permits, they will create a brochure which summarizes this information.

Volunteer: Seeking two to three students. Experience with and/or awareness of social issues, particularly poverty is preferable.



#6: AC Friends of Court Legal Forms Workshop

Partner Organization: Amici Curiae (AC) Friends of Court

Description: Student volunteers will help British Columbians complete legal forms over the phone. Volunteers will work in two teams as Chair 1 and Chair 2. Chair 2 (most student volunteers) will support Chair 1 (typically a lawyer, sometimes an experienced volunteer) during client sessions. Their tasks may include completing AC's Client Session Records, taking notes for the client, looking up the correct form, researching authorities, calling duty counsel to attend, and in many cases listening to clients while Chair 1 is drafting a form. Virtual clinics will take place every Thursday from 5:15-8 pm.

Volunteer: Seeking four to five students. Students who are interested in litigation or civil procedure may find the placement to be a good fit. Fluency in another language is considered an asset. Training will be booked later.



Joint Project
with UBC



#7: Radio Project

Partner Organization: CFBX 92.5 FM – TRU Campus Radio

Description: Students will decide on a specific podcast topic that relates to the broad project topic, in consultation with their lawyer supervisor. Topics include family law, artificial intelligence, access to justice, and criminal law. Students will then develop a workplan that includes researching the topic, developing a podcast script, recruiting and meeting with interviewees if relevant, and recording the podcast. They will work with students from TRU and UBC.

Volunteer: Seeking five to six students.



Varies:
Family Law
Access to Justice
Criminal Law
Environmental Law
Artificial Intelligence



Joint Project
with TRU and UBC

#8: Indigenous Youth Outreach Project

Partner Organization: Level Justice

Description: The project will involve support for online/remote or in-person justice education sessions for Level's Indigenous Youth Outreach Program (IYOP). This project will feature two components: (i) assisting in the facilitation and delivery of mock trials for youth, and (ii) researching and drafting new mock trial scenarios. Student Volunteers will be in charge of leading small justice education group activities during program sessions, partnering with students to prepare them for a mock trial and sentencing circle activity, providing education on different career paths in the justice system, ensuring that they are present at all scheduled justice education sessions they are involved in.

Volunteer: Seeking four to six students. Given the nature of the clientele served (youth), student volunteers should possess comfort working with youth, and a high degree of humility. An interest in or completion of Indigenous Law, Indigenous Legal Traditions, and Canadian Criminal Law will be an asset.



Indigenous Law
Criminal Law
Human Rights Law

Criminal Law

#9: Innocence Canada Ambassadorship

Partner Organization: Innocence Canada

Description: This project will help create awareness of wrongful convictions, thereby increasing access to justice in the long term. Students will have the unique opportunity to assist Innocence Canada with the development and expansion of their education portfolio across the country. This includes event planning, research, presentations, and outreach.

Volunteer: Seeking one to two students. Experience in wrongful convictions and/or advanced criminal law courses is considered an asset.



Criminal Law
Public Interest Law

#10: Restorative Justice and Drug Courts/Peer Mediation

Partner Organization: qathet Community Justice

Description: qathet Community Justice is interested in exploring the intersection of Restorative Justice and drug courts and/or peer-mediated alternative measures involving crime and substance use. Students will create a research memo that contains research on existing processes of this nature in BC (and beyond if applicable).

Volunteer: Seeking two to three students. Experience in criminal law, specifically substance use and mental health or alternative dispute resolution would be assets. A background working with or studying restorative justice principles is an asset.



Criminal Law
Alternative Dispute Resolution
Torts

#11: Restorative Justice BC Research Support

Partner Organization: Restorative Justice Association of BC (RJABC)

Description: This project will focus on legal research and resource development for Restorative Justice organizations in British Columbia. Student volunteers have a choice of topics, which include issues of restorative justice and its interplay with race, anti-oppression, sexual harm, and Indigenous issues, among others.

Volunteer: Seeking two to four students. Previous work or experience with restorative justice would be an asset. There are **three mandatory meetings in October, January, and March** (date TBD with the organization and lawyer supervisor)



Criminal law
Alternative Dispute Resolution

Health Law

#12: Mental Health and Legislative Reform Monitoring

Partner Organization: Health Justice

Description: The student volunteer will monitor emerging legislative initiatives related to mental health, track the progress of bills, and review Hansard debates for content relevant to Health Justice's work. The student's research will help inform Health Justice's policy and law reform initiatives.

Volunteer: Seeking one student. Upper-year students only. ALRW, Health Law, Administrative Law, Human Rights Law and Mental Health Law are all considered assets.



Health Law
Administrative Law
Human Rights Law



#13: Healthcare for 2SLGBTQ+ Seniors

Partner Organization: Office of the Seniors Advocate (OSA)

Description: Seniors who are part of the 2SLGBTQ+ community often face discrimination and legal issues due to their sexual orientation. Unfortunately, this can greatly affect several areas of their life, especially when obtaining healthcare. Students will conduct research regarding the legal implications related to healthcare for 2SLGBTQ+ seniors. This includes: legal documents (for example, Power of Attorney), substitution decision-makers, and legislative issues.

Volunteer: Seeking two to three students with a preference for at least one upper-year student. Experience in human rights law, health law, and administrative law are considered assets.



Health Law
Human Rights Law
Administrative Law



OFFICE OF THE
SENIORS ADVOCATE
BRITISH COLUMBIA



#14: Volunteer Disability Advocacy Program

Partner Organization: Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS)

Description: The TAPS Volunteer Disability Advocacy Project (VDAP) aims to help individuals navigate the complex and lengthy provincial disability application process and provide assistance to medical professionals as needed. Volunteers work directly with applicants to complete the application, help them communicate with their physicians, and review the completed application to ensure that the information provided is accurate and consistent through clinic sessions. Students will interview clients and assist them with filling out the provincial disability application.

Volunteer: Seeking three to four students. A background in social services and poverty work is preferred.



Health Law
Human Rights Law
Administrative Law
Poverty Law



Family Law

#15: Family Sponsorships Presentation

Partner Organization: Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society (CVIMS)

Description: Newcomers to Canada are often unfamiliar with the process and logistics behind family sponsorships. Further, many of them are not fluent in English, making it more difficult for them to understand the application and what is required of them. This can greatly impact their ability to be sponsored. Student volunteers will conduct legal research on family sponsorship and will create a PowerPoint that outlines the findings. They will present the PowerPoint to CVIMS clients in March.

Volunteer: Seeking two students. Students who are bilingual, have taken family law, and/or have lived experience or a background working with newcomers or refugees are preferred, but this is not required.



Family Law
Immigration Law



#16: LiveHelp

Partner Organization: Legal Services Society (LSS)

Description: Student volunteers will provide remote online support and legal information to users of LiveHelp, an instant messaging service available through the Family Law in BC website. This will take place during weekly scheduled sessions. In addition, students will also provide research support to ensure the information used by LiveHelp is current and up to date.

Volunteer: Seeking five to six students, including one project lead per Chapter. Students who have a background in family law or social justice work are considered an asset.



Family Law



Legal
Services
Society



Joint Project
with TRU and UBC

#17: Family Support Worker Training

Partner Organization: Indigenous Perspectives Society (IPS)

Description: IPS is in the process of preparing a new program for Family Support Workers. Students are tasked with ensuring resources for the new program are accurate and up-to-date with recent legislative changes, particularly with the *Child, Family, and Community Service Act* [RSBC 1996]. Students will also delineate the legal similarities and differences between Family Support Workers and Designated Band Representatives.

Volunteer: Seeking two students. Due to the nature of the program and clients served, Indigenous students are preferred.



Family Law
Indigenous Law



Environmental Law

#18: Climate Change Litigation Website

Partner Organization: Environmental Law Club (ELC)

Description: Student volunteers research climate change litigation and create case summaries for use on the climate change litigation website/database. Their work will involve drafting plain language summaries and defining key legal terminology found in the cases. Students may also assist with the development of the website and can provide input on how the material can best be presented.

Volunteer: Seeking four students, preferably one upper year student. Legal research experience, proficiency in a second language and comfort with web design are all considered assets.



Environmental Law
Constitutional Law
Human Rights Law
Torts



#19: Climate Change and Precarious Employment Presentation

Partner Organization: Worker Solidarity Network

Description: Weather events related to climate change are impacting workers to a larger degree than ever before. Students will research workers rights and jurisprudence, and will create a presentation on workers and employers rights after a major weather event. Students will present this information to precariously employed individuals at the end of the semester.

Volunteer: Seeking two to three students. Prior experience with Employment Standards Complaints is an asset. Labour and employment law is an asset.



Environmental Law
Labour and Employment Law
Administrative Law



#20: Exploring Implications of Trawling

Partner Organization: Pacific Wild

Description: A ground-breaking 2021 study published in the journal Nature found that world-wide, bottom trawling is responsible for releasing more carbon emissions than the aviation industry. Carbon disturbed by trawling is released from the sediment and is converted into carbon dioxide (CO₂). The CO₂ makes its way into the water column, increasing acidification, and into the atmosphere, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions.

Students will further explore these implications by conducting research and creating a research paper on various topics including: the increase in freezer (i.e., factory) trawlers on the B.C. coast, foreign and corporate ownership of factory trawlers, and local jurisdictional differences between fisheries policies.

Volunteer: Seeking two to three students. Environment law and/or experience with the environmental industry or fisheries is considered an asset.



Environmental Law
(particularly Fisheries
Act + Regulations)



Human Rights Law

#21: LGBTQ2+ Rights Presentation

Partner Organization: Artemis Place

Description: Student volunteers will create and present a presentation on LGBTQ2+ rights, and their evolution throughout history in Canada, to a grade 12 law class at Artemis Place. The presentation should inform students about the rights of the LGBTQ2+ community, and pique students' interest in studying law.

Volunteer: Seeking two students. Students with experience working with vulnerable populations or youth are preferred.



Human Rights Law



#22: Support, Service, and Guide Animals

Partner Organization: Vancouver Island Human Rights Coalition (VIHRC)

Description: VIHRC is a community organization that assists individuals who have experienced discrimination. VIHRC communicates on the client's behalf, assisting individuals to access human rights information, and providing assistance and support to clients with filing human rights complaints. Student volunteers will work as a pair to conduct research on the "duty to accommodate" and "emotional support animals, service animals, and guide dogs, before creating a final document which summarizes their findings for VIHRC.

Volunteer: Seeking two students. Experience in human rights law and constitutional law are assets but are not necessary.



Human Rights Law
Constitutional Law



#23: Navigating Systemic Discrimination

Partner Organization: Vancouver Island Human Rights Coalition (VIHRC)

Description: VIHRC is a community organization that assists individuals who have experienced discrimination. VIHRC communicates on the client's behalf, assisting individuals to access human rights information, and providing assistance and support to clients with filing human rights complaints. Student volunteers will work as a pair to conduct research on the dynamics of group/class complaints versus individual complaints and their role in instigating systemic change before creating a final document which summarizes their findings for VIHRC.

Volunteer: Seeking two students. Experience in human rights law and constitutional law are assets but are not necessary.



Human Rights Law
Constitutional law
Administrative Law



#24: Trans ID Clinic

Partner Organization: Island Sexual Health (ISH)

Description: Student volunteers will support trans and gender non-conforming clients through the legal name and gender change process with regularly scheduled clinics.

Volunteer: Seeking four students. Preference will be given to LGBTQ2S+ students, particularly trans students. Experience with social work or professional interaction with BC Vital Statistics is an asset. A demonstrated commitment to allyship with trans communities is an asset. **Project is fully in-person.**



Human Rights Law
Administrative Law



#25: Canadian Civil Liberties Association – Research Project

Partner Organization: Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA)

Description: Student volunteers will conduct legal research and prepare legal memoranda on various topics assigned by the CCLA Program Directors. This may include case briefs, reviews of draft or proposed legislation, policy reviews and research memoranda on fundamental freedoms, police powers, national security, privacy, criminal law reform, and equality. Students may periodically be asked to conduct social science research as well, used to inform CCLA’s advocacy and education work.

Volunteer: Seeking one student to work with students from other law schools. Upper-year students only. Students with an interest in human rights law preferred. French fluency is considered an asset.



Human Rights Law
Administrative Law
Constitutional Law
Public Law

CANADIAN
CIVIL LIBERTIES
ASSOCIATION



ASSOCIATION
CANADIENNE DES
LIBERTES CIVILES



National Project



Indigenous Law

#26: Designated Band Representative Training

Partner Organization: Indigenous Perspectives Society (IPS)

Description: IPS is in the process of developing a training program for Designated Band Representatives. Student volunteers will research legislation, regulations, policies, and directives governing Designated Band Representatives to ensure the legal accuracy of the training program.

Volunteer: Seeking two students. Preference for Indigenous law students or JID students.



#27: BC First Nations Justice Council Research Paper

Partner Organization: BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC)

Description: Students will conduct research on the collection and dissemination of data to and by First Nations as part of a Social Health Program. Students will conduct research on how other jurisdictions are implementing community-based programming, including how data is being distributed in other jurisdictions. The output of this project will be a research memo which clearly articulates the above for internal use by BCFNJC.

Volunteer: Seeking two students. Transsystemic Criminal Law is an asset. Preference for Indigenous students due to the nature of the project.



#28: Indigenous Legal Systems Presentation

Partner Organization: Artemis Place

Description: Student volunteers will create and present a presentation on Indigenous Legal Systems to a grade 12 law class at Artemis Place. The presentation is meant to give the students a broad and high-level overview of Indigenous legal systems and traditions, and how they interact with Canadian Common Law.

Volunteer: Preference for students in the JID program. Background working with youth, working with Indigenous populations, and working with vulnerable populations are considered assets.



Indigenous Law



PBSC is a national organization that receives funding from:

