

# Pro Bono Dalhousie: Community Guide



## **PATHS TO COLLABORATION: A COMMUNITY GUIDE TO WORKING WITH PRO BONO DALHOUSIE**

This guide has been created to provide clarity on the role that Pro Bono Dalhousie plays to connect the Schulich School of Law and surrounding community as we learn how to work together to contribute to the public good.

This guide is for you if you are a Halifax or Atlantic Canada-based community group or a non-profit organization looking for assistance from Pro Bono Dalhousie, or if you have been approached by Pro Bono Dalhousie representatives interested in partnering with you.



**DALHOUSIE**  
UNIVERSITY

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## WHAT IS PRO BONO?

Pro bono publico, Latin for “for the public good”, refers to professional services provided voluntarily and without charge. Pro bono services ensures equal access to justice for all members of society, regardless of their financial means. In the context of entrepreneurs and business development, business owners from marginalized communities or those with limited resources may face legal challenges that they cannot afford to address.

## WHAT DOES PRO BONO DALHOUSIE DO?

Pro Bono Dalhousie organizes student placements with partner organizations to volunteer with clinics and research to further access to justice initiatives. We have operated since 2001, placing hundreds of students and volunteering thousands of hours.

Pro Bono Dalhousie values the expert knowledge and passion that members of the community (from local to global) have about their communities and issues affecting them; it fosters ongoing collaboration between the law school and community partners on how to better understand and consider the issues identified as priorities by local and global communities.

[Here are examples of past partnerships:](#)

### ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA

In collaboration with the Elizabeth Fry Society and PATH Legal, student volunteers conduct research, draft legal documents and communicate with clients while gaining exposure and experience in the areas of administrative and prison law.

### NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID

Law students volunteer at various NSLA offices, including the youth office and child protection group to complete research and resources for various information gaps in the justice system.

### DALHOUSIE WILLS CLINIC

Students are paired with low-income seniors to assist them in creating a will, under the close supervision of a lawyer.

### IMMIGRATION SERVICES ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

Law students meet with clients, often former refugees, to assist them with filling out appropriate immigration application forms. This includes writing humanitarian and compassionate letters for people in exceptional circumstances and working on paperwork for the Provincial Nominee Program or for citizenship or renewal of permanent resident cards.

## WHY SHOULD I CONNECT WITH PRO BONO DALHOUSIE?

With a wide range of expertise, our coordinators, supervising lawyers, and student volunteers are a resource for the development of community-campus partnerships in Halifax and its surrounding regions. We can help you move your ideas into action by creating opportunities to build relationships, share knowledge, and to ultimately make a difference through your work. We work to develop and support multi-stakeholder collaboration because a variety of perspectives, skills, and approaches are required to address the complex challenges facing our communities.



# IS A PARTNERSHIP OR COLLABORATION RIGHT FOR YOU?

Before you start down the road to collaboration, you might consider these questions:

	YES	NO	MAYBE
Is this research project in line with the mission and vision of your organization?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a question or puzzle you want research to help you answer?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If you've already spoken to a coordinator, is there a sense of shared vision or mutual benefit concerning the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will your organization or community have the time and resources to put into a research project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a champion in your organization or community willing to lead your group's involvement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your community or organization feel generally positive about being part of a research project (or a specific, identified project)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will the community members or organization staff be involved in making decisions about the research and/or in conducting the research?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you've answered "no" or "maybe" to any of the above questions, use them to begin conversations with members of your organization. If you are still unsure, you can connect with one of our coordinators for a consultation to receive advice or additional connections.

## HOW CAN I CONNECT?

Pro Bono Dalhousie is here to help you as you develop relationships, ideas, and strategies towards new or developing partnerships.

In order for us to understand who best to connect you with, please reach out with your request and as much detail as you can provide through our email: [probono@dal.ca](mailto:probono@dal.ca)

Assessment: After you contact us, our team will assess your request and determine who best to connect with you based on the path that you have chosen.

Initial consultation: Based on our assessment, we will follow up with you (and any partners or colleagues if requested) to arrange an initial consultation.

After the initial consultation, the coordinator who met with you will follow up to reaffirm recommendations noted during the meeting, as well as any next steps that were discussed.

Through the process outlined above, we will collectively gain clarity on what our office can do to support the development of your project.

## CONNECT WITH US

### SOCIAL MEDIA

We share updates about what's going on at Pro Bono Dalhousie and in the surrounding community!

To stay in the loop, follow us on social media (@probonodal).

## GENEROUSLY FUNDED BY

