



STEVEN HALL
University of Alberta

Project Title:
Partnering with Carers and
Healthcare Professionals to
Co-Create the Dementia Carer
WINK “What I Need to Know”
Toolkit (DC-WINK)

ABOUT STEVEN

Steven Hall is a registered nurse and PhD student in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, Division of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Alberta. His program of research focuses on enhancing the quality of care that older adults and their family and friend carers receive when accessing health systems. Steven is a 2025 Government of Canada Vanier Scholar and a recipient of the 2026 AbSPORU Graduate Studentship in Patient-Oriented Research. He is passionate about knowledge translation and ensuring that research findings are meaningfully integrated into healthcare practice. This passion is driven by his clinical background as a registered nurse. Alongside his academic work, Steven continues to practice casually on a general medicine unit in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Steven is currently working toward PhD candidacy in September 2026 and looks forward to continuing to grow a program of research that supports vulnerable aging populations and the family and friend carers who play an essential role in their care.

PROJECT SUMMARY

More than 650,000 older adults in Canada are living with dementia, and many will eventually require long-term care. When a person with dementia moves into long-term care, the role of family members and friends often changes, but it does not end. Carers (also known as “caregivers”) may continue to provide emotional support, advocate for the resident, monitor care quality, share important knowledge about the person, and participate in care planning. However, carers may experience uncertainty,

exclusion, or inconsistent access to information, making it difficult to remain meaningfully involved in care. This project aims to address this challenge through the development of the Dementia Carer “What I Need to Know” Toolkit, or DC-WINK. The purpose of DC-WINK is to support clearer, more consistent, and more collaborative information sharing between family and friend carers and healthcare professionals in long-term care.

Family and friend carers are considered important partners in care because healthcare communication practices directly affect their ability to support the safety, quality of life, preferences, and care of people living with dementia. Rather than developing an intervention and then asking carers and healthcare professionals whether it works, the project will involve them throughout the process of understanding the problem, designing the toolkit, refining it, and assessing how well it works in practice. Ultimately, DC-WINK aims to strengthen partnerships between carers and healthcare professionals so that important information about people living with dementia is shared clearly, respectfully, and consistently, supporting more person- and family-centred care in long-term care settings.