

CNPEA ~-RCPMTA
Report of the Board to the Members –
for December 11, 2008 AGM

The Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (CNPEA) has had a very productive year. We are extremely pleased by the growing interest at the local, regional, provincial/territorial and national levels about abuse and neglect issues affecting older adults. Increasingly Canadians in many parts of the country are demonstrating dedicated collaborative efforts to prevent the harms to older adults from happening.

People are looking for ways to appropriately support and assist older adults who may be experiencing abuse or neglect. Communities are looking for ways to be able to work together to help address abuse and neglect in later life, along with the factors that underlie it.

CNPEA-RCPMTA has been very proud to be part of that process, and as the only national group whose work focuses exclusively on abuse and neglect issues affecting older adults, we are uniquely positioned to carry out this work.

We are equally proud of the opportunities we have coming into 2008-9, as we continue to emphasize the need to share ideas and knowledge and to work together.

A. The 2007-8 Year's Highlights

The abuse and neglect of older women and older men has gained a fair amount of attention this year. The federal government announced a Senior Abuse Strategy on Feb 11, 2008. This earmarked \$13 million over three years for a national awareness campaign and training resources.

In the Spring of 2008, CNPEA was in consultation for the Federal Provincial Territorial Working Group on Seniors Safety and Security on central repository for abuse prevention and intervention resources, and with National Clearinghouse for Family Violence on updating of directory.

This year, CNPEA-RCPMTA has made written and oral presentations to government including to (a) Industry Canada on the roles of banks/ client privacy issues and (b) the Special Senate Committee on Aging (June 4th, 2008) to respond to the Second Interim Report in which we discussed at length the provincial and federal directions and responsibilities.¹

CNPEA-RCPMTA attended and actively participated in the National Research Roundtable on Elder Abuse, as well as the Federal Provincial Territorial Working Group on Seniors Safety and Security Forum on Financial Abuse.

In June CNPEA-RCPMTA, the Ontario Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the BC Association of Community Response Networks met with Senator LeBreton's staff to offer info and assistance re: national senior abuse public awareness campaign which will be implemented by the federal government.

¹ Special Senate Committee on Aging, June 4th, 2008, Evidence of Witnesses:
http://www.parl.gc.ca/39/2/parlbus/commbus/senate/Com-e/agei-e/12evb-e.htm?Language=E&Parl=39&Ses=2&comm_id=600

B. Presence at Forums and Conferences

Many of our CNPEA Board Members and supporters participated in the Federal Provincial Territorial Working Group on Seniors Safety and Security “Elder Abuse Forum” which took place in Vancouver on November 8th, 2007. The Forum will have a significant impact in moving forward the field of senior abuse prevention. We took this valuable opportunity to build and strengthen relationships with Board members, supporters, other organizations and government representatives.

CNPEA is pleased to have been part of Manitoba’s inaugural conference “*Partnering Towards the Prevention of Abuse of Older Adults*” (October 27 & 28, 2008). CNPEA also participated in Coalition of Senior Citizen Organizations of BC (COSCO) conference, September 15-16, 2008.

We try wherever possible to promote the activities of others. In the future, we hope to formally plan for various local, regional, and national conferences and major events that occur throughout the year, and use these as opportunities to raise awareness of CNPEA even further, as well as continue to build the Network’s membership.

C. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2008 and Other Associated Events

This year the International Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse and Canadian Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse co-organized an excellent two day conference June 16th & 17th, 2008. It was held at the Government Conference Centre, Ottawa.

The conference partners included: International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, Human Resources and Social Development Canada, National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly, Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, the Ontario Seniors’ Secretariat, AARP (Office of International Affairs), International Association of Gerontology & Geriatrics, International Federation on Ageing, AND the UN NGO Committee on Ageing.

CNPEA organized the June 16th morning session: “Innovative Canadian Approaches to Addressing & Preventing Mistreatment of Older Persons”. Seven presentations from across the country gave national and international attendees a sample of the wealth of approaches and strategies taking place across Canada:

- 1) Ontario: Ontario's Strategy to Combat Elder Abuse/ Stratégie ontarienne de prévention des mauvais traitements à l'égard des personnes âgées, along with a Policy Lens / Outil D'évaluation Des Politiques Sur La Prévention De La Maltraitance Envers Les Aînés
- 2) Quebec: RQCAA -- Le Réseau
- 3) Best of West: Approaches from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia (Le meilleur de l'Ouest :-Innovations du Manitoba, de la Saskatchewan, de l'Alberta et de la Colombie-Britannique .Traitement et prévention des cas de mauvais traitements envers les personnes âgées
- 4) Best of Atlantic Canada
- 5) National Strategy for the Prevention of Abuse in Inuit Communities /Stratégie nationale de prévention de la maltraitance dans les communautés Inuites
- 6) Promoting Understanding, Facilitating Change: The Unique Role of CNPEA

7) New Horizons for Seniors Program Canada's Seniors Address Elder Abuse

This was an excellent opportunity for people to learn more about CNPEA- RCMPTA.

Video clips from all the presentations over the two days are available at:
http://www.inpea.net/weaad/weaad2008/WEAAD2008_OttawaConference.html PowerPoints of these and other presentations are available on the CNPEA website at: www.cnpea.ca

Once again this year, CNPEA helped local communities across Canada promote their WEAAD activities by posting them on the CNPEA Website and by uploading photos from those events to maintain a virtual photo album.

D. Funding Updates

We would like to thank all those who made financial and in kind donations to the CNPEA this year, and especially to Jay Chalke, Public Guardian and Trustee of BC for making all our teleconferences possible. Without teleconferencing, we wouldn't have a functioning organization.

The other in kind donations which CNPEA receives include

- hosting costs of website www.cnpea.ca
- printing costs for CNPEA and INPEA materials, which are distributed at workshops and conferences,
- postage for distributing materials across Canada,
- special promotional items such as CNPEA's "Abuse Hurts at Any Age" pens in French and English, which have distributed at seniors conferences and abuse conferences and other venues
- financial administration by the Seniors Resource Centre in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Together, these in kind contributions are conservatively valued at \$9,000 annually.

The Board members and supporters contributed well in excess of 1500 hours of volunteer time. In total, this and the other in kind contribution are conservatively estimated at about \$75,000 annually.

Project Funding Submission: In December, 2007 CNPEA-RCPMTA submitted a proposal for New Horizons funding application – for the "Elder Abuse" call. We were informed there were over 140 submissions from across Canada, and about ten percent of these were funded. We congratulate those who were successful, and hope to have the opportunities to work with them in the future.

E. Organizational Update

This year we have continued our efforts to formalize the organization a bit more, for example in developing policies for letters of support. We also continued to build the knowledge of the Board about regional issues and developments as well as senior abuse in the context of federal-provincial division of powers.

The Board has operated according to its new expanded leadership model along with the formation of a committee structure to involve more of our members and supporters. This year has also been characterized by linking with other national organizations to learn what one another are doing and how we might work more collaboratively.

A note on funding challenges:

As a growing national organization, we rely heavily on in kind contributions because we do not have operational funding. When we apply for project funding, our financial records do not reflect our actual cash flow or track record, we may risk not being considered as strongly as those with greater infrastructure. This is a systemic issue for many networks, and we will need to work with government and others to address it.

G. The Year Ahead

CNPEA has continued building relationships with Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) the RCMP and Justice Canada, which are the four federal partners in the federal government's senior abuse strategy. We are beginning discussions to support development of a community of practice of police across Canada working in this field.

Network development, especially at the national level, is a special type of process that is not intuitively obvious, and it does not happen by magic. It will be important for CNPEA~RCPMTA to show and explain the values of networks to potential funders in concrete ways in the future.

As a Board we have also been discussing ways of getting World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) on the United Nations agenda as a permanent, internationally recognized day. We applaud the efforts of others as they plan for WEAAD in Paris in 2009.

Special Notes of Thanks

Those Who Served on the Board This Past Year – (listed in reverse alphabetical order)

Mark Yaffe – Quebec	Eileen Malone – New Brunswick
Helene Wavroch - Quebec	Rosemary Lester – Newfoundland and Labrador
Catherine (Kip) Veale- Yukon	Freda Hannah - Ontario
Charmaine Spencer – BC	Susan Crichton – Manitoba
Jean-Guy Saint-Gelais – Quebec	Bea Campbell – Northwest Territories
Judy Lynn Richards – PEI	Bernice Bell—Prince Edward Island
Elliot Paus-Jennsen- Saskatchewan	Barbara Baker – – Nova Scotia
Raeann Rideout - Ontario Elizabeth	
Podnieks – Ontario	
Jennifer McMullen - Nova Scotia	

We would like to offer a special thanks to Board members and supporters for stepping in for their colleagues when they have had to be away due to personal or family illness, work responsibilities, or other commitments. You have helped assure continuity in regional representation to the Board.

Those Who Served This Year Who Are Leaving the Board

We would like to thank the following Board members for their many wonderful and enduring contributions to the Board over the years: Susan Crichton – Manitoba; Barbara Baker – Nova Scotia; Kip Veale – Yukon; and Jennifer McMullen- British Columbia/ Nova Scotia.

Some of these Board members have been involved with CNPEA from the early days. In several cases, they have taken on new and exciting positions and have expressed willingness to continue to aid the Board in a Supporter role. We value their continued involvement. We warmly welcome those new Board members who will be joining us in the upcoming year as well.

A special note: Jennifer McMullen came to us as a student, and we are pleased this very skilled young woman has successfully completed her Masters thesis on financial abuse. We hope to encourage other students to be part of CNPEA~RCPMTA in the future.

Those Who Have Been Supporters of the Board this Year

Gloria Dixon – Manitoba	Jamie Howie – New Brunswick
Maxine Lithwick – Quebec	Joan Harbison – Nova Scotia
Barbara Hood – Northwest Territories	Alison Leaney- British Columbia
Francine Cytrynbaum – Quebec	Patricia Fleishman – Ontario
Marie Beaulieu- Quebec	

On a Personal Note

We are extremely proud of our Board membership and supporters. All are amazing individuals, and each brings to the organization a unique perspective and set of talents as well as a heart-felt dedication to positive social change.

We are proud of our regional representation and the diversity of our Board which is comprised of seniors, regional network representatives, service providers, government representatives, and academics. They are very dedicated persons who are actively involved in promoting abuse prevention and intervention efforts in their respective jurisdictions

They have often sacrificed a lot to be part. We thank them all.

Respectfully submitted by
Charmaine Spencer –Co-Chair