

*Réseau canadien pour la prévention des mauvais  
traitements envers les aîné(e)s*

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**Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse**

**Report of the Board to the Members –  
for December 9, 2010 AGM**

The Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse- Réseau canadien pour la prévention des mauvais traitements envers les aîné(e)s (“the Network”) has had another 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 and 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.

The Network has been very proud to be part of that process. As the only national organization 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 2010-11, as we continue to emphasize the need to share information, ideas and knowledge and to work together.

**A. The 2009-10 Year’s Highlights**

The abuse and neglect of older women and older men has continued to gain a fair amount of attention this year. This was the second year of the federal government’s Elder Abuse Initiative. This earmarked \$13 million over three years for a national awareness campaign and training resources. Two thirds of that money was allocated to the national awareness campaign, which aired on national television during two periods last year, and in June and in the Fall this year.

In the Spring of 2010, the Network provided consultation services to the Public Health Agency of Canada on two key projects, and to the National Clearinghouse for Family Violence on the directory of programs and services it has been revising. It was a pleasure working with Margaret MacPherson on the Neighbours, Friends and Families project, and with Sharon Mackenzie on the Across the Generations project.

This year, the Network made written and oral presentations to government including to Parliamentary Committee on Palliative and Compassionate Care, highlighting community and institutional issues from a national perspective. We stressed the value of the federal initiative, and expressed concern about losing momentum after 2011, at a point when new

regional networks are just beginning to emerge. We will continue to stress the need for a funded national network/ centre to share information on Canadian developments on an ongoing basis.

One of growing challenges being recognized across the country is that as more awareness is created, what then? Will people know where to turn for help? And even more importantly, are there community resources to help, and do they have the organizational and funding capacity to meet the growing need? Awareness without properly funded community supports would be unfair to older adults and people who care about them, and very short sighted.

Increasingly, CNPEA Board members and supporters are being recognized for their special knowledge in this area. We participate on the Advisory Committees of several national projects, such as the HRSDC funded guides and curricula being developed by three professional groups for their constituencies. These are the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists, Canadian Dental Hygienists Association, and Canadian Nurses Association/ Registered Nurses of Ontario – for abuse in long term care. Our Board members and supporters are also involved in regional abuse prevention projects working with ethnocultural groups, and special populations such as people with communication difficulties/ aphasia.

This year, some of our Board and Supporters have been participating in the HRSDC project conducted by NICE and its team partners to build consensus on definitions around abuse and neglect. This is a very important and timely issue in Canada: is “elder abuse” meant to refer anything bad that happens to older adults, or is it intended to refer to harms in the context of specific types of relationships? Increasingly general types of victimization that people might experience such as investment fraud are being thrown into the “elder abuse” area. This conflation of what have generally been seen as separate topics, each worthy of consideration, complicates use of community organizations resources. It also affects how we create key messages, and develop priorities.

## **B. Presence at Forums and Conferences**

Many of our Board Members and supporters participated in the Winnipeg Education Forum; and the recent NWT Symposium. We took this valuable opportunity to share and learn, plus build and strengthen relationships among Board members, supporters, other organizations and government representatives. We are seeing both the commonality of interests, and where there may be important regional differences.

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~RCMPTA even further, as well as continue to build the Network’s membership.

### **C. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2010 and Other Associated Events**

Once again this year, CNPEA~RCMPTA helped local communities across Canada promote their WEAAD activities by posting them on our website and by uploading photos from those events to maintain a virtual photo album. In the forthcoming year, we will look at ways of doing that much earlier and more comprehensively. It will be important to consider whether there is a role for the Network in helping to create a national theme for upcoming WEADs.

Our co-Chair Charmaine Spencer put together a summary of the progress Canada has made over the past five years in bringing the issue into the limelight, and the many innovative ways communities and organizations are recognizing WEAAD (as a special day, expanding activities to include week and month). We appreciate the efforts of the International Federation on Aging in developing a new community tool kit to help communities think about and plan activities.

Communities are always looking for new materials to generate interest and need those materials well in advance of events. One of the challenges we have noted this year (and previously) is the lack of an integrated method for distributing material within or across regions, such as this year's fraud and financial materials developed on behalf the FPT Working Group on Seniors Safety and Security.

### **D. Creation and Expanding Networks**

We are very pleased that New Horizons funding has made it possible for regional networks to begin in several provinces and territories, and to be further strengthened in others. Newfoundland and Labrador, Saskatchewan, and the Northwest Territories for example are building or beginning to formalize networks in their jurisdictions. We were saddened to see the loss of the Quebec Network this year but we realize there are plans to help establish an invigorated network in Quebec. We are delighted to see the growth happening in many provincial networks and committees. We look forward to working with community organizations, agencies, committees, networks, and different levels of government throughout Canada in 2011.

### **E. Funding Updates**

We would like to thank all those who made financial and in kind donations to the Network this year, and especially to the Public Health Agency of Canada for teleconferencing. Without teleconferencing, we wouldn't have a functioning organization. We would also like to offer our sincere appreciation to the Seniors Academy for its \$2050 donation that provided a great start to the year.

As noted in our Treasurer's report, CNPEA~RCMPTA receives several in kind donations. These include

- ❖ Annual fee for incorporation
- ❖ Registration and hosting of the website [www.cnpea.ca](http://www.cnpea.ca)

- ❖ Printing and production costs for Network materials distributed at workshops and conferences,
- ❖ Special promotional items (e.g. CNPEA's "Abuse Hurts at Any Age" stress balls and pens in French and English, which have distributed at conferences and other venues)
- ❖ Long distance communication
- ❖ Transportation costs to distant meetings (e.g. Parliamentary Committee)
- ❖ Postage for distributing materials across Canada,
- ❖ Financial administration by the Seniors Resource Centre of Newfoundland and Labrador (subsidized).

Together, these in kind contributions are conservatively valued at \$27,000 annually. The Board members and supporters contributed well in excess of 2200 hours of volunteer time in total.

We would like to thank Seniors Resource Centre in Newfoundland and Labrador for its financial administration.

## **F. Organizational Update**

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

The Board has been successfully using its committee structure to involve more of our members and supporters in the consultation work we have done for the Public Health Agency of Canada.

In 2010, we began linking with other national organizations to learn what one another is doing and how we might work more collaboratively. We are very pleased to work with project coordinators on regional projects as well as national projects, such as NICE's Knowledge to Action tool development. Whether it is disseminating information, sharing resources, or linking people, we are very happy to help support regional and national work wherever possible.

## **G. The Year Ahead**

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 requires time, energy, passion and people resources to do it properly. It will be important for CNPEA~~RCPMTA to continue to show and explain the values of networks to potential funders in concrete ways in the future.

We will continue to stress the need for a funded national network/ centre to share information on Canadian developments on an ongoing basis.

We are seeing an increasing number of complex inquiries coming to the attention of the Network. We are beginning to strategize on how best to meet those individual and global information needs across the country, whether that is through Frequently Asked Questions, or other strategies.

In recent years, we have seen more provinces developing action plans and provincial strategies in this area. In 2007, the Network through the excellent work of Alison Leaney, the Network developed “A Draft Framework for a National Strategy for the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect of Older Adults in Canada- A Proposal”. It is very clear there is a need to take that work further, looking at the issues from a cross-Canada perspective (coast to coast to coast) in the context of guiding principles, vision, goals, and setting priorities to advance prevention and helping work in this area, and monitoring the progress being made. It is an area in which we will need to work with many stakeholders and strive for consensus.

## **H. Special Notes of Thanks**

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

Jocelyn Yerxa- Nova Scotia	Elizabeth Podnieks – Ontario
Mark Yaffe – Quebec	Eileen Malone – New Brunswick
Charmaine Spencer – BC	Rosemary Lester – Newfoundland and Labrador
Jean-Guy Saint-Gelais – Quebec	Shannon Kohler- Manitoba
Judy Lynn Richards – Prince Edward Island	Freda Hannah - Ontario
Susan Qamaniq- Nunavut	Ann Grigoletto- British Columbia
Raeann Rideout - Ontario	Janelle Curtis- Manitoba
Pat Power- Alberta	Leah Cohen- Ontario
Elliot Paus-Jennsen- Saskatchewan	Bea Campbell – Northwest Territories
	Bernice Bell—Prince Edward Island

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: Judy Lynn Richards, Freda Hannah, Eileen Malone, Anna Grigoletto, and Susan Qamaniq.

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 would also like to thank the following supporters for their many wonderful and enduring contributions to the Board over the years. These include Susan Crichton – Manitoba & the Public Health Agency of Canada, Alison Leaney - BC & NICE; Barbara Hood- Northwest Territories, Kelly Heisz- Newfoundland and Labrador, and Jamie Howie of New Brunswick.

### **To Our New Board**

We warmly welcome those new Board members who will be joining us in the upcoming year as well. We value the knowledge, skills, experience and perspectives you each bring.

### **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. This is a uniquely Canadian approach to national work in this area. They are very dedicated persons who are actively involved in promoting abuse prevention and intervention efforts in their respective jurisdictions. We know it is often very challenging to split time between the various levels of organizations especially when working on such a complex and multifaceted issue.

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

Respectfully submitted by  
Charmaine Spencer –Co-Chair