



CNPEA ~ ~ RCPMTA

Volume I, Issue I

Special points of interest:

- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- New Publications and Resources
- Working for Protection through Community Effort
- Recent Changes to Laws
- CNPEA's Upcoming Annual General Meeting

Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
Réseau canadien pour la prévention du mauvais traitement des aîné(e)s

Welcome to the first edition of the CNPEA-RCPMTA's newsletter!

CNPEA-RCPMTA is a Canadian network of individuals and organizations committed to sharing and learning from each other on how to effectively prevent and address abuse and neglect of older adults.



Did you know?

- Between 4 and 10 percent of older adults in Canada (157,000—392,000 persons) experience one or more forms of abuse or neglect in later life.
- Abuse often has profound effects on seniors' emotional, physical, financial and social wellbeing.
- Abuse and neglect causes significant ripple effects on families, communities, and Canadian society as a whole.

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World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (2006)

June 15, 2006 is the inauguration of the first World Elder Abuse Awareness Day! We hope you mark this day in your calendar — and plan for it. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is an important opportunity for communities and countries around the world to stress the need to understand what abuse and neglect of older adults is, how it can be prevented, as well as highlight local, regional and national initiatives to improve the lives of older adults. During the past twenty years, Canadians have become more aware of some areas of family violence, such as wife abuse or child abuse. However, many people may not realize that older adults can face abuse or neglect, particularly forms such as financial abuse or violation of rights. Or they may not know how to help.

Communities and countries will hold events in 2006 designed to raise their locale's or region's awareness of the diverse aspects of abuse and neglect of older persons, as well as make proclamations supporting World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. What activities do you think will promote respect for older adults in Canada and raise awareness of harms that many people face in later life from family or others that they trust?

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Yukon Passes New Laws

PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR COMMUNITY, PROVINCE, TERRITORY OR REGION.

WE ARE VERY HAPPY TO INCLUDE IT IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS.

On May 2, 2005, new legislation took effect in the Yukon to assist adults who have difficulty with making decisions about key parts of their lives because of some mental incapability. The *Decision Making, Support and Protection to Adults Act (DMSPAA)* focuses on health care, personal care and financial and property decisions.

Under the *Act*, there are now tools in place to assist people who have difficulty making decisions because of some degree of mental incapacity. The law affects people with intellectual disabilities, people with brain injuries, individuals with dementia or other degenerative diseases, and people with mental illnesses. The legislation is made up of

three separate but connected laws --
a) the *DMSPAA*,
b) the *Care Consent Act* and
c) the *Public Guardian and Trustee Act*.
The part of the *DMSPAA* dealing with adult protection will come into force on September 1, 2005 to allow more time for policy development and staff training.



In the News: Provinces Recognizing Concerns in Long Term Care

Quebec: "Province to Toughen Nursing Home Standards" Quebec's ministry of health is planning to set stricter standards for privately run chronic care homes and nursing homes. Currently there are no established norms. (Source: CBC, December 10, 2004)

Alberta to Increase Nursing Home Staffing Alberta Health plans to increase long term care staffing to 3.4 hours per resident over the next three years. The province's Auditor General recently identified that one third of the province's nursing homes sampled only partially met the basic

standards of care and others did not meet them at all. Problems included lack of registered nurses, inappropriate use of physical and chemical restraints, and scheduling care e.g. washing and dressing residents at 3 am, putting residents to bed at 7pm. (Source: CBC, May 12, 2005)

Building Bridges: A Forum for the Prevention of Abuse of Older Women

What do older women leaving an abusive relationship need? How can service providers help? That's what the Building Bridges Conference held in Vancouver, BC on February 17-18, 2005 asked people to consider.

The conference showcased "Shelter and Support of Older Abused Women – Experiences and reflections from a BC–Yukon pilot outreach project". Older women poignantly shared their personal experiences of abuse, as well as the challenges of leaving, in the session "Silent No Longer".

"Violence Against Older Women— Programs and Actions" provided an opportunity to look at some emerging promising practices in helping older women. Presenters included Jill Duncan—*Casa House, Carlton, Australia*; Judit Alcalde—*ONPEA, Ontario* and Angela Robertson—*Sistering, Toronto, ON*; and *Ama House—White Rock, BC*. The Conference was sponsored by the BC Yukon Society of Transition Houses. For more information on the project, the training and publications, see: www.bcysth.ca/publications/publications.

Creating Resources: “Looking Beyond the Hurt”

St. John’s NF & LBDR

The Seniors Resource Centre in St. John’s has developed a desktop reference tool to help service providers to identify and support older adults who have experienced abuse or neglect.

Recognizing a professional’s busy workload, *Looking Beyond the Hurt* provides a concise

overview of the indicators of abuse in later life, relevant legislation in Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as regional resources for seniors.

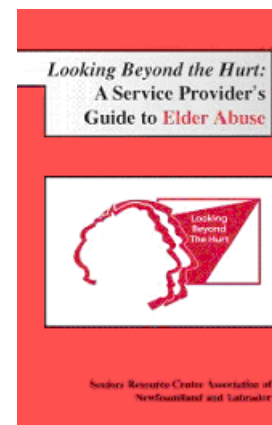
Published in 2004, this Guide is the first of its kind for the province. It has the support of the RCMP, the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, and thirteen professional health organizations and schools.

The Guide is available in limited hard copies which can be ordered from the Centre. It is also available online at:

www.seniorsresource.ca/docs/LookingBeyond.pdf

The online version requires Adobe Acrobat Reader.

The Centre is exploring the possibility of adapting the Guide in other provinces.



Saskatchewan Continues to Build Interest in Abuse Issues

In the early 1990s, Saskatchewan actively addressed abuse of older adults with abuse protocols and preliminary research on financial abuse. Community concern about helping abused or neglected older adults continues.

An Elder Abuse Task Force has been established by the Saskatoon Council on Aging, comprised of representatives from several agencies and groups who are concerned with abuse issues affecting older adults. Drawing on the skills of a recently hired Research and Action Coordinator to aid the work, the Task Force is in the process of identifying existing efforts, developing priorities and planning future community action. The Task Force is looking at specific roles that the Council on Aging and others can take in this area. See: www.scoa.ca/

*The beginning of
all things are small.*

~~ Cicero



Manitoba Government Supports Bill of Rights for Seniors

In March, 2005, the government of Manitoba announced that all private and not-for-profit personal care homes will be required to develop their own residents’ bill of rights.

Operators will be required to help residents set up a council

to discuss any care-related issues. The law also sets out limits on how residents can be physically restrained.

A bill of rights typically does not create new rights for people. However it helps to inform, clarify and remind people

including residents, families and care providers about some of the rights that residents have. Bills of rights are often used as a tool in staff education and training.

Ontario has provided a residents’ bill of rights in its nursing home regulations since 1990.

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The Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

Our Starting Points

CNPEA ~ ~ RCPMTA values older persons as an integral part of Canadian society. Older adults have a right to:

- live in a safe and caring community,
- live free from abuse, neglect and exploitation,
- access effective and compassionate support when necessary,
- have social issues, including injustices that affect them, appropriately addressed.

There is a continuum of abuse and neglect in later life and there

are many diverse forms. Harm can come from many different types of people that the older adult should reasonably be able to trust and it can occur in many different types of settings.

~ ~ ~

We invite you to visit the CNPEA–RCPMTA website at www.cnpea.ca.

Focussing on Canadian perspectives and resources, the website currently offers information on over 45 topics related to abuse and neglect in later life.



“Harm can come from many different types of people that the older adult should reasonably be able to trust.”

~ ~ CNPEA



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is pleased to announce

the 2005 Annual General Meeting

will be held on September 20, 2005 in
Vancouver BC.

11 a.m.—1 p.m. Pacific Standard Time

The AGM will be held by teleconference.

Look for further details in this newsletter.

Thank You So Much for Your Support!

To pre-register for the AGM

All persons planning to attend must register by **September 18, 2005**.

You can register by email: cspencer@shaw.ca. Or leave a phone message with your name and number. Phone (604) 291-5047; Fax: (604) 291-5066 (Attn: Charmaine).

CNPEA Members unable to attend can vote by absentee ballot, which must be received by September 18th, 2005. The ballot will be sent to members in August.

Message from the Chair on Behalf of the CNPEA Board



Alison Leaney,
Chair

A Review of the Last Year

Over the last year the CNPEA board has been working hard to identify priorities for the Network and enhance its long term viability.

The Board has met monthly by teleconference to become a team, developing detailed strategic and work plans. We began a detailed review of our bylaws to make changes to better enable us to build the national network

while upholding our legal responsibilities. We've worked on funding applications to hold a national meeting with participants from each province and territory in Canada. We are in the process of revising and updating the CNPEA brochure.

Getting the Word Out

In working to build the CNPEA network we were very fortunate this year to have had volunteer support from Charmaine Spencer of the Gerontology Research Centre at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver who very generously created and launched the new CNPEA

website www.cnpea.ca.

Our goal is to keep adding information about initiatives and emerging approaches from across Canada. So if you don't see your region reflected on the site, please get in touch with her (see page 7 for contact info). Charmaine has also played a leadership role in this first edition of the CNPEA newsletter, for which we are all most grateful.

Cont'd next page...



Upcoming Annual General Meeting and Networking Event

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held via a national toll-free teleconference on **Tuesday, September 20th, 2005 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time.** Mark your calendars and plan to attend!!!

Pre-registration for the teleconference will be necessary.

The meeting is open to members and other supporters who are not yet members. For people who are interested in becoming members, we'll be in touch about how to do that as soon as we resolve our most pressing bylaw challenges. In the meantime, we'll keep you informed and connected!

Agenda items for the AGM will include:

- election of members to the Board, and
- bylaw amendments related to quorum and meeting via teleconference.

This meeting is also an excellent chance to share with one another and find out what's happening across Canada to respond to abuse and neglect of older adults.

Look for us!

CNPEA will be at the World Conference on Prevention of Family Violence
October 23 - 26, 2005
in Banff, Alberta.

www.wcpfv2005.ca/splash.cfm

Message from the Chair of the Board (cont'd from page 5)

On a More Personal Note

I'd also like to thank my fellow Board members for their ongoing commitment and hard work over the last year. They are an amazing group of people:

- Jean Guy Saint-Gelais, Quebec (Vice-Chair)
- Elizabeth Podnieks, Ontario (Past Chair)
- Gloria Dixon, Manitoba (Secretary)
- Rosemary Lester, Newfoundland and Labrador (Treasurer)
- Wayne Hill, Alberta
- Mark Yaffe, Quebec
- Maxine Lithwick, Quebec
- Joan Harbison, Nova Scotia
- Esther Braden, Northwest Territories
- Kip Veale, Yukon

A special note of appreciation as well goes to the following other supporters and volunteers who have helped us immensely: Eileen Mead and Susan Crichton of Manitoba, Joleene Kemp from Ontario and Somen Goodman, from Quebec.



*Respectfully submitted,
Alison Leaney (BC) Chair,
CNPEA-RCPMTA*

Thanks So Much for Your Support!!!

Thanks to the many individuals and organizations who wrote very eloquent letters of support for one of our funding applications:

- Dr. Alain Pavilanis (President, College of Family Physicians of Canada)
- Ann Soden (Executive Director of the National Institute of Law, Policy and Aging and Founding Past Chair of the National Elder Law Section of the CBA)
- Esther Roberts (President, Canadian Caregiver Coalition)
- Faye Porter (VP National Programs and Volunteerism, VON Canada)
- Joan M. Campbell (Acting President and CEO, Canadian Association for Community Care)
- Carol Ward Hall (recently retired ED, BC Coalition to Eliminate Abuse of Seniors)
- Wayne K. Hill (Chair, Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Network)
- Amanda Macrae (CEO, Age and Opportunity Inc. Manitoba)
- Norma Drosdowech (Chair, Manitoba Council on Aging)
- Cpl. Jo-Anne Prejet (Community Policing Services – “D” Division, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Manitoba))
- Beatrice Campbell (President, NWT Seniors Society)
- Norman Murray (Director, Department of Health and Social Services of Nunavut)
- Barbara Saunders (ED, Status of Women Council of the NWT)
- Alvin Armstrong (Director, Hay River Seniors Society)
- Howard Kravitz (ED, Ontario Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse)
- Randi Fine (Executive Director of Older Persons' Mental Health and Addictions Network of Ontario)
- Lynn McDonald (Director, Institute for Human Development, Life Course, and Aging, University of Toronto)
- Jean-Guy Saint Gelais (President, Conference des Tables regionales de concertation des aînés du Québec Inc.)
- Georges Lalande (President, Conseil des aînés – Council of Elders)
- Helene Wavroch (President, Le Réseau Québécois pour Contrer les Abus Envers les Aînés (Québec Network))
- Heather Praught (Chair, Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy Committee, Nova Scotia Seniors Secretariat)
- Bernie LaRussic (Vice-Chair, Group of IX Seniors' Organizations (Nova Scotia))
- Joan Dawe (Chair, Interagency Elder Abuse Committee (Newfoundland & Labrador) & Chair, Seniors Resource Centre Association of Newfoundland & Labrador Inc.)
- Olive Bryanton (Coordinator, PEI Centre for Health and Aging)
- John Ottenheimer (Minister, Government of Newfoundland & Labrador, Department of Health & Community Services)

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Connecting People.... Connecting Information... Connecting Communities



Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
Réseau canadien pour la prévention du mauvais traitement des aîné(e)s

CNPEA Newsletter
Attention Charmaine Spencer
Gerontology Research Centre
Simon Fraser University

Phone: 604-291-5047
Fax: 604-291-5066
Email: cspencer@shaw.ca



**We're on the
Web!
www.cnpea.ca**

We cannot all do everything.

~~ Virgil

Photo Credits for this newsletter include: Health Canada (Dare to Age Well); Hermera; Seniors Resource Centre, NF & LBDR.

The Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (Réseau canadien pour la prévention du mauvais traitement des aîné(e)s) is a national non-profit organization. It began in the late 1990s and was federally incorporated in 2000. The Network is dedicated to the prevention of the abuse and neglect of older people in Canada.

CNPEA's Mission Statement

Through communication and collaboration, the Network seeks to increase Canadian society's ability to recognize and prevent mistreatment of older people so all adults can be free from abuse, neglect and exploitation in later life.

The Network's strength comes from:

- equal participation of older persons in all aspects of the organization's work, and
- sharing of successful strategies, so that we build on each other's knowledge and insights.

Why Does Canada Need a National Network? (Part I)

Abuse and neglect of older adults is a complex, multi-faceted social, health and legal issue. People have increasingly recognized the need to work together at local, provincial, national and international levels on abuse and neglect issues affecting older adults.

A national network can help people in communities and diverse regions to:

- increase awareness;
- support each other in efforts to address this complex and difficult area;
- strengthen seniors' voices on these issues;
- ask questions, share information about what works well in different parts of a province or the country;
- compare approaches, advance knowledge, and continually

improve practice;

- collaborate on developing strategies and approaches;
- develop an ethical framework for helping;
- identify key issues and highlight new ones that arise;
- use the best information available; and
- advance the issue of abuse and neglect of older adults as an important policy matter and resource priority.

Support for local, regional and national networks can create many opportunities to build on the promising practices and growing knowledge gained from existing programs and pilot projects. In this way, Canadian communities will not be forced to continually "reinvent the wheel".