

Best of the West:

Innovations from Manitoba,
Saskatchewan, Alberta, BC

*Addressing & Preventing Mistreatment
of Older Persons*

Abuse as a Health Issue — specific staff to train/educate/consult with staff

- Re:Act Adult Abuse and Neglect Response Resource provides consultation, training, manual & materials to health staff responding to reports of abuse & neglect

www.vchreact.ca



- Created by Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
- VCH has 1 Regional Lead, 2 Consultants and 60+ Designated Responders
- Now adopted by 4 of BC's 5 regional health authorities

Abuse as a Justice Issue

- Developing dedicated multi-disciplinary teams including police and psychosocial personnel:
 - Edmonton Elder Abuse Intervention Team (AB)
 - Vancouver Police Department (BC)
 - Crown Prosecutor & Police collaboration (Saskatoon)
- Edmonton (AB) and Winnipeg (MB) Domestic Violence Courts with dedicated Crowns inclusive of senior abuse and Calgary HOME FRONT Domestic Violence Court (AB) with senior abuse support worker

Abuse as a Justice Issue

- New Law Clinic for Seniors – BC Centre for Elder Advocacy and Support – www.bcceas.ca
 - 2nd in Canada – 1st in the West

More Than A Roof Over Our Heads

We are using many different models to meet abused seniors' safety and shelter needs:

- Age & Opportunity's Safe Suite Initiative (MB) - <http://www.ageopportunity.mb.ca/>
- Edmonton Seniors' Safe Housing (AB) -A program of the Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton – men and women, 7 suites in a seniors housing complex
- Kerby Shelter, Calgary (AB) – men & women, stand alone attached to the Kerby Centre

Some Examples of Our Models

- Atira Women's Resource Society (BC)
 - Ama Transition House – for women 55+
<http://www.atira.bc.ca/housing.html>

- Victoria Women's Transition House Society (BC)
 - Harrison Place – second stage housing - in process – for 45-60 year old women

Some Examples of Our Models

- Also training and more for shelter staff :
 - BC Yukon Society of Transition Houses - Older Women's Project (BC)
 - print materials, video, “What's Age Got to do With It?”, brochure
 - safe home network development and transition house outreach worker pilot sites integrated with local Community Response Networks, e.g. Penticton, Victoria

Legislative Improvements

- Changes to Public Trustee Law
 - asset freezing powers for “incapable” adults (BC & SK)
- BC’s Adult Guardianship Act
 - Support and Assistance for Abused and Neglected Adults - vulnerable adults
 - “Designated agencies” and Community Response Networks
 - Not mandatory reporting, but mandatory response

Encouraging Seniors & Volunteer Involvement

- Saskatoon Council on Aging – volunteers/seniors leading response to senior abuse through systemic advocacy and prevention activities
- WEAAD provides a focus for bringing volunteers/seniors, communities and agencies together – workshops in Saskatoon attract others in other communities and participants learn of, and from each other



Prevention Through Building Intergenerational Respect

- Manitoba “Across the Generations”
- intergenerational project with grades 4/5 students (presents elder abuse in the context of bullying – uses “Seniors are Cool” video)



Our Network Building

■ **Manitoba Elder Abuse Network**

- part of provincial government's comprehensive senior abuse prevention strategy along with provincial Senior Abuse Line

■ **Community Against Family Violence (Prince Albert, SK)**

- children, women, seniors, - funded coordinator

■ **Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Network**

- police training video with curricula and standardized community kits for local capacity building distributed throughout Alberta

Our Network Building (cont'd)

- **BC Association of Community Response Networks** – www.bccrns.ca
 - Centrally supports and regularly links 30 – 40 CRNs – **whole** community approach - inclusive, principle based
 - Primary and secondary prevention activities – awareness, education, letting the community know how to get help, protocol development, addressing root causes, fostering neighbourliness – **microcosms of the communities we want**

Our Network Building (cont'd)

- **BC Adult Abuse/Neglect Prevention Collaborative**
 - Our Vanguard Project reviews legislative, policy systemic issues putting people at risk of abuse/neglect and will be recommending changes
 - coordinated by the Public Guardian and Trustee of BC

Respecting Diversity

- **Culturally Responsive Pathways Program - Edmonton (AB)**
- **Calgary Chinese Elderly Citizens Association (AB)**
– works very closely with the Kerby Centre so the Chinese community can access the centre
- **Blood Tribe Police Service – Lethbridge (AB) - senior abuse coordinator – to educate and communicate within the Blood Tribe**

Respecting Diversity

- **First Nations Re:Act (BC)**
 - interactive online manual, video clips, animated case studies
- **Dialogues to Develop Resources for Preventing Financial Abuse re: Indian Residential School Survivors (Public Guardian and Trustee of BC)**
- **Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Services Society (BC) – family violence videos in Chinese; Punjabi, Spanish**

Contacts/More Info

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See additional Resource List