

## iaBPG Newsletter – National Elder Abuse Project

Elder Abuse is of growing concern in Canada. It is expected that there will be an increase in the number of seniors at risk of abuse due to the growing age of the population. The RNAO has partnered with the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) for the *Promoting Awareness of Elder Abuse in Long-Term Care Homes* pan-Canadian initiative. The goal of this project is to increase front-line service providers' awareness and understanding of elder abuse and enhance their capacity to respond to situations of abuse in long-term care.

The activities of the *Promoting Awareness of Elder Abuse in Long-Term Care Homes* initiative are to (1) develop and deliver education sessions on elder abuse prevention customized to long-term care across Canada; (2) develop promotional material and resources on elder abuse prevention; and (3) develop an online elder abuse awareness toolkit on CNA's NurseONE.

10 Prevention of Elder Abuse Centres of Excellence (PEACE) sites have been selected in response to a Call for Proposals disseminated to long-term care homes in Canada. The PEACE sites were selected based on geography, outreach and knowledge transfer capabilities within their region and represent a variety of large, small, for-profit, not-for profit, public, private and municipal organizations. The outreach currently includes British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Each PEACE site will be sending an RN Coordinator to RNAO in Toronto to participate in a 4-day orientation session in January 2011. The orientation session will introduce the coordinators to the education curriculum, which includes topics such as understanding and recognizing elder abuse, provincial/territorial and federal laws surrounding elder abuse, intervention strategies and sustaining a healthy work environment. The education curriculum will then be adapted to the PEACE sites and

implemented in spring 2011 to front-line workers within the home and outreach areas by the Coordinators. The homes will become the first national Champions of elder abuse prevention.

This is a two-year project with funding provided by *Human Resources and Skills Development Canada – New Horizons for Seniors Program*. Upon completion of this project, (March 2012), all resources, toolkit and education curriculum produced will be made available through CNA's NurseONE.