

JOAN BRAUN – British Columbia

Joan Braun, LLB, MSW, RSW is a registered social worker and a lawyer. Joan has been working as a mediator in private practice since 2004 and her current area of specialty is resolving disputes between older adults and their families. In addition to work as a mediation practitioner, Joan has studied academically in the field. She obtained a Master of Social Work in 2007 and in 2011 she enrolled in her second Masters program. Her current thesis examines how to protect the legal rights of older adults in decision-making processes. She has had two peer reviewed papers published to date and is continuing her studies in a PhD this fall. Joan also has more than 8 years experience in management in the non-profit sector including 5.5 years at the BC Centre for Elder Advocacy and Support (BCCEAS) and Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta (CPLEA), organizations that focus on older adult issues. Joan oversaw the establishment of the first legal aid clinic for older adults in Western Canada, and a diverse range of other programs for older adults who had experienced abuse. In the summer of 2015 Joan returned to private practice as a mediator and lawyer, while she works towards her PhD. She is the current Canadian Bar Association representative to BC's Committee to Reduce Elder Abuse.

MARTA HAJEK – Ontario

Marta C. Hajek is the Director of Operations with Elder Abuse Ontario (EAO), mandated to support the implementation of the provincial Strategy to Combat Elder Abuse. She has been working with EAO since 2013 and was previously engaged as Executive Director of the Ontario Gerontology Association, and earlier as Operations Manager during Ontario's rollout of the (211) Information & Referral service (Poverty Reduction Strategy). Ms Hajek received a B.A. degree in Geology and Statistical Analysis

from the University of Toronto and throughout her career in both corporate and non-profit sectors has acquired significant expertise in executive leadership, strategic planning and governance, policy development and stakeholder management. Ms Hajek brings to the CNPEA Board, a solid background in organizational administration and business operations. Ms Hajek, an accomplished pianist and opera aficionado, is a dedicated supporter of the Arts and volunteers with youth pursuing training in classical vocal music.

SARITA ISRAEL - Québec

Sarita Israel is a bilingual trained clinician, and part of a team specializing in elder abuse prevention since 1991. Sarita holds a double Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Social Work from McGill University and holds a key position in elder abuse research, training, clinical practice as well as in the development of clinical practice guides. She was a pioneering member of the multisectoral consultation team in Québec. Sarita is a consultant for the implementation, coordination and clinical development of the Ligne Aide Abus Aînés. She has trained the trainers for the elder abuse prevention network throughout Québec. She is also involved in several partnership projects championing the development of knowledge, practice, resources and programs geared towards the prevention and response to elder abuse.

ROD MCKENDRICK - Saskatchewan

Rod McKendrick is currently working with Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice, Victims Services, as the Interpersonal Violence Specialist for the province and has done so since 1998. His responsibilities are the development of training materials, policies and protocols in the area of Interpersonal Violence. He also

manages the contracts for Aboriginal Family Violence Programs, the Children Exposed to Violence Programs and other specialized programs. He is currently working with various partners as an advisor through the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism on the “Seniors Neglect and Abuse Response Line” which is available 24 hours a day, staffed by trained responders to various issues that face seniors. Rod worked in policing for 31 years, 6 of those years were spent with the British Police, with the Lancashire Constabulary and immigrated to Canada in 1979 to work with the Regina Police Service, Regina, Saskatchewan. Rod retired from policing in July of 2004. Since 1981, he has been actively involved in the field of interpersonal violence, this has included the development of the provincial protocols on child abuse and domestic violence to the development of training manuals on domestic violence and abuse of the elderly. Rod was also one of the founding members of CNPEA and sat on the board for a number of years.

LORI THERRIEN - Alberta

Lori Therrien is the Elder Abuse Prevention Coordinator with Alberta Seniors, Seniors Strategic Planning Branch. Lori supports policy development and service delivery, in order to achieve key goals and outcomes within the Addressing Elder Abuse in Alberta – a Strategy for Collective Action; with an emphasis on collaborative approaches. This involves providing leadership, designing, planning, and evaluating major projects and contracts, as well as the coordination of cross-government initiatives and the participation on provincial and national committees. Lori is a registered social worker with a specialization in Gerontology. Lori brings seventeen years of experience in addressing elder abuse; including being a past co-chair of the CNPEA~RCPMTA; past chair and member of the Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Network

(current member); member of the Alberta Patient Concerns Resolution Network; The Today Family Violence Centre (Director) and a community of practice member for the It's Not Right – bystander training. Currently, Lori is an active participant with the Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Network and an active volunteer in her community.

LORI WEEKS – Nova Scotia

Dr. Lori Weeks is a Gerontologist who completed a Ph.D. and a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology at Virginia Tech in 1998. Lori worked in assisted living in her home province of Prince Edward Island for three years before becoming a faculty member at the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) from 2001-2014. She taught courses at UPEI focused on families and gerontology including family violence, women and aging, and issues in family law and social policy. In January, 2015, Lori joined Dalhousie University as an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing. Her primary research interests focus on care and support services for older adults and their caregivers, and factors affecting the health of seniors. Her research often focuses on vulnerable populations. Lori has conducted research on the abuse of older adults with particular focuses on supports for older abused women and training peer educators to raise awareness about elder abuse. She serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Women and Aging and is a member of the Abuse and Neglect of Older Adults Research Team in the Maritimes (ANOART), a research team affiliated with the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research at the University of New Brunswick. She has received awards from UPEI for research, teaching and service.