

Newfoundland and Labrador Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NLNPEA)



Our First Network Newsletter

Welcome to the first newsletter of the NL Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse. The purpose of this newsletter is to share the news and events of the Network and our partners to better enable the people of this province to work together to address elder abuse.

This newsletter is distributed to all members of the Network and within our partner organizations. We also encourage you to share this newsletter with anyone who you think might be interested. If you are not a member of the Network and would like to join, please see the information on the last page. **Membership in NLNPEA is free and open by registration to any individual or organization committed to ending elder abuse in Newfoundland and Labrador.**

Our newsletters are published quarterly in February, May, August, and November. They are also available on our website at www.nlnpea.ca/newsletters_resources. If you have any news to be included in our newsletter, would like to contribute an article, or have a suggestion or comment for us, please let us know. Content deadline for the May newsletter is May. 7. We also accept news and event listings for our website anytime. Please send your content to eanetwork@seniorsresource.ca. We would love to hear from you!

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NL Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NLNPEA)

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Newfoundland and Labrador
SENIORS
RESOURCE CENTRE
opening doors

A Brief History of Our Network

In 1992, the Seniors Resource Centre of Newfoundland and Labrador (SRC-NL) brought together government and community expertise to form a committee to raise awareness of elder abuse and share information about referral and intervention services.

The role of this committee, then called the Interagency Elder Abuse Committee, evolved to include overseeing the SRC-NL's Elder Abuse projects. This included the development of a Speakers Bureau in 1996 to do presentations about elder abuse. In 2005, the committee developed a Strategic Plan to Address Elder Abuse in NL and presented it to the provincial government. The plan made recommendations to both government and community around six key provincial elder abuse issues: elder abuse legislation; community response to elder abuse; public awareness and education; training and screening for service providers; caregiver support; and research.

In 2006, the Interagency Elder Abuse Committee changed its name to the Elder Abuse Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador (EACNL) to reflect its expanded membership and provincial structure. In 2010, EACNL received funding from the New Horizons for Seniors Program to develop into a provincial network. The inaugural meeting of the Newfoundland and Labrador Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NLNPEA) was held in October 2011 as part of a symposium entitled "PREVENTION OF ELDER ABUSE: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY": The Network is an integral part of the SRC-NL's efforts to address elder abuse in our province.

Our Mission:

To provide information and support to individuals and organizations (from both community and government) working to prevent elder abuse and/or provide services to those affected by this issue.

A cake proudly displaying the Network's new logo at our inaugural meeting in October 2011.



Preventing Financial Abuse

By Carson Thistle, CLU, CH.F.C., CHS, TEP, of Thistle Financial

Any person – elders, family members, or professional – who suspects that financial abuse of an elder has occurred should report it. Successful prevention of elder financial abuse involves multiple strategies. There are a variety of actions individuals, family members, financial service professionals, businesses, and organizations can do to help protect elders from getting tangled in the web of elder financial abuse. Older adults themselves can take several precautions to avoid falling prey to financial abuse.

Staying organized is always a great way to avoid elder financial abuse. Keeping your belongings neat, keeping track of possessions, opening and sending your own mail is always a good habit to have. When depositing CPP, OAS, and other cheques, try completing these tasks yourself and always sign your own cheques whenever possible. Never provide personal information over the phone and use an answering machine to screen those calls that you are unsure of.

Staying informed is another good way to keep ahead of the game. Consult with an attorney and financial advisor about future plans. Assign a Power of Attorney and review your will to make sure that it is up to date. Make a plan about future care-giving arrangements and make sure you know where to go if you suspect abuse and ask for help from the police.

Stay alert and cautious. Never leave items of value out in the open. Don't sign any documents unless someone you trust reviews it and under no circumstances be left out of decisions about your own finances.

Family members should periodically inquire about their older family members' financial resources and perceived limitations that may stem from their financial situation. Any unusual cash withdrawals from a financial account in a short period of time, along with sudden transfers of assets to a family member or someone outside the family, a set of "out-of-sync" cheque numbers, or an increase in the number and amount of credit card accounts are worth noting.

Continued on next page

Preventing Financial Abuse (continued)

They also need to keep an eye out for such things as unexplained trembling, crying and/or abrupt change in behaviour, and changes in communication patterns. Even missing belongings from the home or room in a facility is something to worry about. You may notice overpayments for goods and services, unnecessary household repairs, even excessive time being spent on the internet. Always look at things like signatures that seem forged, unusual or suspicious or even an abrupt or unexplained change in the Power of Attorney, will, or other legal or financial documents. All of these things are red flags that family members should look into. Make sure you are aware of these signs. If you suspect elder financial abuse, ask for help.

Financial services and other professionals, such as Financial Planners, bankers and lawyers, are well positioned to contribute to the prevention of elder financial abuse by educating the clients about their rights and about the types of consumer frauds and scams. Along with describing how family members, with the help of legal counsel, can explore the options of financial conservatorship for clients who are frail, mentally ill, or cognitively impaired, they can encourage the clients or family members to discuss with legal counsel the option to assign a financial guardian or a Power of Attorney, as needed. If children are of a concern, enlightening the clients about the option to assign responsibility to an outside person is always an option. Generating media attention on the issues of elder financial abuse and its prevention is important – as is staying apprised of the current trends and techniques for stopping the abuse. Also, it is important to report suspected cases to the local authorities or to their institution's compliance department.

Thanks to Carson Thistle for submitting this article. Mr. Thistle is a member of NLNPEA.

NLNPEA NEWS

Next Public Meeting

The next public meeting of the NL Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse will be held in St. John's (and by webinar) on **February 28 from 9:30 to 11:30am** (island time). Our guest speaker will be Dr. Lisa Adams, Mental Health and Addictions Consultant, Department of Health and Community Services, speaking on a new study that will examine seniors, mental health issues, and emergency room services (*The use of acute hospital services by seniors with and without mental illness*).

Location: Kenny's Pond Retirement Residence, Common Area, 6th Floor, 135 MacDonald Drive, St. John's. *Refreshments will be served courtesy of Kenny's Pond Retirement Residence.*

Or to join us online by webinar:

1. Go to: www2.gotomeeting.com/join/460712034 (Meeting ID: 460-712-034)
2. Then join us by phone for the sound portion of the meeting by dialing: 1-866-613-5223. The conference access code is: 7360114



Building on Input from the “PREVENTION OF ELDER ABUSE: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY” symposium

On October 3-4, 2011 the NL Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse held the “Prevention of Elder Abuse: A Shared Responsibility” symposium in St. John's. In addition to educational sessions, the symposium offered participants the opportunity to provide feedback on what they felt the Network should focus on in its first year. The results of this feedback were compiled in a report entitled “Input to Lead Our Way”. This report is available at www.nlnpea.ca/newsletters_resources.

Continued on next page

NLNPEA NEWS (continued)

Building on Input from the “PREVENTION OF ELDER ABUSE: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY” symposium (continued)

Based on this input, the Network Steering Committee is developing a strategic plan for the Network. This will be introduced at a future NLNPEA meeting and made available on our website once it is completed.



One of the educational sessions at the symposium

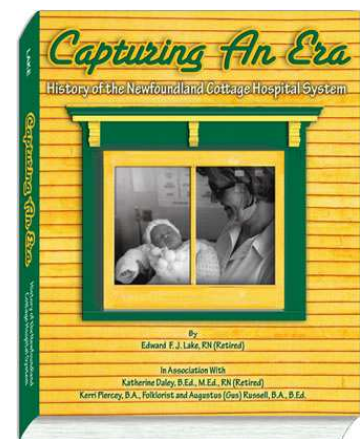


A cheque presentation at the symposium from the Rotary Club of St. John's Northwest. This generous donation will enable the Network to develop a virtual resource to help prevent elder abuse.



Support the NLNPEA with a purchase of *Capturing an Era: History of the Newfoundland Cottage Hospital System*

Produced by the Health Archives and Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador, this 496-page book tells the history of the Newfoundland cottage hospital system. This book makes a great present for anyone who grew up with this system. Books are \$25 each (plus shipping if applicable) and all proceeds go to the NL Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse. For more information call the Seniors Resource Centre at 1-800-563-5599 or email eanetwork@seniorsresource.ca.



Our Partner's News and Events

Workshops for Seniors: Avoiding Financial Abuse

Labrador Grenfell Health in partnership with the Labrador West Status of Women Council and the Credit Counselling Services of Atlantic Canada will be offering a series of workshops to seniors on how to avoid financial abuse through financial planning.

Funding for this event was made available by the Community Addictions Prevention/Mental Health Promotion Fund. These workshops will be held:

- March 6 – Happy Valley-Goose Bay
- March 7 – Labrador City
- March 8 – Forteau
- March 9 – St. Anthony

As final details on times/venues become available they will be posted on the NLNPEA website at: www.nlnpea.ca/Event_postings. Or contact Janice White at Janice.white@lghealth.ca



Crime Prevention Conference

Atlantic Coordinating Committee on Crime Prevention and Community Safety and the Citizens' Crime Prevention Association of Newfoundland and Labrador invite you to attend the **Crime Prevention for a Better Tomorrow** conference.

This year, the conference will be held in picturesque Corner Brook, located on the western side of the island portion of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. The focus of the conference will be on the theme of "*Crime Prevention for a Better Tomorrow*" and promises to build on the success and hospitality that has been seen at other conferences over the past 25 years.

The following groups should attend: Crime Prevention Associations, Business People, Community Councils, Correctional Workers, Police, Educators, Media, Municipalities, Private Sector, Seniors, Youth, Government Policy and Programming Professionals, Social Workers, School Counselors, Psychologists, and Interested Community Members.

Our Partner's News and Events (Continued)

Crime Prevention for a Better Tomorrow conference details (continued)

Some Topics to Be Covered:

Technology Crime, Crime Reduction Strategy, Mental Health and Crime Prevention, Amber Alert, Investment Fraud and Fraud of Seniors, Community Education Network, Family Violence, Forensic Identification, Addictions, and Senior Abuse, to name a few.

Plus Katy Hutchison will give a special presentation on “The Story of Bob”.

Dates:

The conference will be held from June 7th to 10th, 2012. Registration will begin on Thursday, June 7th and the conference will conclude with a farewell breakfast on Sunday, June 10th.

Registration Costs and Dates:

Early Registration (up to and before **May 7, 2012**) - \$250 per person

Late Registration (after **May 7, 2012**) - \$300/person

Note: Registration costs include all meals from Friday breakfast (June 8th) to Sunday Breakfast (June 10th) inclusive. Also included is the Meet and Greet Reception on Thursday (June 7th).

For further Information Please Contact

Roberta Stanford

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(709) 364-3669, email: bstanford@nl.rogers.com

Our Partner's News and Events (Continued)

Fédération des francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador

The Fédération des francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador (FFTNL) and the Public Legal Information Association of NL (PLIAN) combined their resources for their Francophone adult information sessions project. An adult information session was held in each of the regions where the Francophone schools are located. The FFTNL provided valuable feedback throughout the development of the session content and assisted with both the promotion and recruitment of participants for the adult sessions.

You will find the three French presentations at: www.francotnl.ca/InformationsJuridiques
For more information, please contact: Roxanne Leduc, Project Coordinator, Phone: 709.757.2828, email: projets@fftnl.ca

La Fédération des francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador (FFTNL) s'est associé, avec Public Legal Information Association of NL (PLIAN), à leur projet des séances d'information pour un auditoire d'adultes francophones. Une séance d'information pour adultes a eu lieu dans chacune des régions où les écoles francophones sont situées. La FFTNL a fourni une rétroaction précieuse au niveau du contenu de la session et a contribué à la promotion et le recrutement des publics pour les séances concernant les adultes. Vous trouverez les trois présentations en français sur le portail des francophones: www.francotnl.ca/InformationsJuridiques. Pour de plus amples informations, s'il vous plaît communiquer avec la chargée de projets, Roxanne Leduc, 709.757.2828, projets@fftnl.ca

*Fédération des francophones
de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador*



Our Partner's News and Events (Continued)

Now available from the Public Legal Information Association of NL

A new publication, *Executor's Guide*, is now available from PLIAN. The *Uncontested Divorce: An Information Guide* is also available. Contact PLIAN for further information.



GET YOUR FREE COPY NOW!

CALL 1-888-660-7788
TO ORDER A MAIL-OUT

-OR-

DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE
ONLINE AT

www.publiclegalinfo.com

'EXECUTOR'S GUIDE' NOW AVAILABLE PROVINCE-WIDE

Public Legal Information Association of NL (PLIAN) has officially launched a new self-help legal resource for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

'Executor's Guide' will help individuals navigate the process of acting as the executor of an estate in this province.

The guide features general information about

the process, a checklist of tasks for executors and a listing of helpful resources for court forms, websites and contact numbers.

This **FREE**, user-friendly, plain-language publication contains information tailored specifically to Newfoundland and Labrador estate law and its related procedures.

International and National News and Events

National Events

The Canadian Centre for Elder Law is pleased to announce the 2012 Canadian Conference on Elder Law is taking place November 16 to 17, 2012. This is the sixth elder law conference hosted by the CCEL, and for 2012 the Conference returns to beautiful downtown Vancouver, British Columbia. Join experts, academics, lawyers and advocates from across the globe to advance the discussion of elder law issues.

Over the years this inter-disciplinary event has been a site for discussion of issues of interest to practitioners working in law, policy, government, policing and justice, health care, finance, education and front line advocacy. The theme for this year's conference is "Advocacy and Aging: From Storytelling to Systemic Change."

The conference pre-day, the World Study Group, will be held November 15, 2012. The World Study Group offers scholars an opportunity to share their research and ideas with academics from around the world.

The Call for Abstracts will be available shortly. Mark your calendars and watch www.bcli.org/ccel for more information!

International Events

Elder Abuse: A Global Concern, 7th World Conference of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) will be on May 28, 2012 in Prague, Czech Republic. For more information, go <http://www.inpea.net/weaad/worldday2012.html>

Join Us!

Membership in NLNPEA is free to any interested individual or group. To register, please visit our website at www.nlnpea.ca/membership_form, email us at eanetwork@seniorsresource.ca, or call the Seniors Resource Centre of NL at 1-800-563-5599.

Benefits of NLNPEA membership include:

- Free participation in monthly network meetings (attend in person in St. John's or via teleconference/webconference from another location in the province)
- Opportunity to network and connect regionally, provincially, and nationally
- Quarterly network newsletters
- Option to register for regular email announcements on elder abuse-related events
- A 15% discount on registration for network conferences and/or other educational events where there is a charge
- Opportunities to provide input on the direction of the network

NLNPEA members are individuals, community and government organizations, and private businesses with an interest in preventing elder abuse. Our members include:

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|---|--|
| CARP – NL | Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network |
| Central Health | Newfoundland Labrador Housing Corp. |
| Coalition Against Violence Avalon East | Nunatsiavut Department of Health |
| College of Licensed Practical Nurses of NL | NWT Seniors' Society |
| Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy | Office for Aging and Seniors, Government of NL |
| Department of Health and Community Services | Public Legal Information Association of NL |
| Dietitians of NL | Réseau Santé en français de TNL |
| Eastern Health | Royal Canadian Mounted Police |
| Eastern Long Term Care Association | Royal Newfoundland Constabulary |
| Fédération des francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador | Salvation Army Glenbrook Lodge |
| Independent Living Resource Centre | Seniors Wellness Committee, Western St. Patrick's Mercy Home |
| Kenny's Pond Retirement Residence | Thistle Financial Services |
| Labrador Friendship Centre | Tiffany Village Retirement Residence |
| Labrador Grenfell Health | Transition House Association of NL |
| Labrador South Homecare Inc. | Victim Services |
| Labrador West Status of Women Council | Violence Prevention Labrador |
| MUN, Department of Social Work | Western Health |

NLNPEA would like to thank the Rotary Club of St. Johns Northwest for helping to make this newsletter possible. Development of NLNPEA was supported by funds from New Horizons for Seniors.