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

Update on the Adult Protection Act

An adult in need of protective intervention lacks the capacity to understand or appreciate how living with risk may result in harm. An Act Respecting the Protection of Adults (Adult Protection Act) ensures that adults who lack capacity are protected from abuse, neglect and/or self-neglect.

The Adult Protection Act was passed on May 31, 2011 in the House of Assembly, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Adult Protection Act (available at: http://www.assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/a04-01.htm) will be proclaimed when the following are completed:

- A policy and procedure manual and regulations;
- An education and training program;
- A public awareness campaign; and
- An accountability framework.

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An Adult Protection Provincial Steering Committee and Adult Protection Aboriginal Committee provide advice and guidance throughout the process. Two sub-committees (Abuse and Capacity) have contributed to the development of the manual.

The Adult Protection Act applies to every person in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, regardless of living arrangement, with the exception of those defined through the Child Youth and Family Services Act or the Mental Health Care and Treatment Act. When it is proclaimed, it will replace the Neglected Adults Welfare Act (1973).

There is a legal obligation for any individual living in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador to immediately report alleged situations of abuse, neglect or self-neglect where an adult may lack capacity and be in need of protective intervention.

For more information contact:

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The NL Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse would like to thank the Office for Aging and Seniors, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for submitting this article. The Office for Aging and Seniors is a member of NLNPEA.
Elder Abuse: Did You Know?

According to a recent provincial survey *(Provincial Survey of Attitudes Towards Violence and Abuse, October 2010)*, 47.6% of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are “Very Concerned” about violence against older people in their community and surrounding areas. Another 37.1% are “Slightly Concerned.”

If you share this concern, we welcome you to join the NL Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NLNPEA). For more information, go to www.nlnpea.ca/membership, email eanetwork@seniorsresource.ca, or call the Seniors Resource Centre of NL at 737-2333 or 1-800-563-5599.

If you or someone you know is affected by elder abuse, and you or he/she is in immediate physical danger, please dial 911, where the service is available, or dial “0” for the operator and you will be connected to an emergency response.

To contact your Regional Health Authority about an elder abuse concern, call the following number for your region:

**Eastern Health**
- Rural Avalon - 709-786-5245
- St. John’s - 709-752-4885
- Bonavista/Clarenville/Burin Peninsula - 709-466-5707

**Central Health:** 709-651-6340

**Western Health:** 709-634-5551, ext. 226

**Labrador-Grenfell Health:** 709-454-0372

Another place to contact for support is the Seniors Resource Centre of NL’s Seniors Information Line: 1-800-563-5599 (a line answered by seniors with training to help you find the supports you need). Or go to www.nlnpea.ca/Provincial_contacts and www.nlnpea.ca/Regional_contacts to find out about other available resources.

Resources Highlight: New and/or Interesting materials

Financial Abuse Case Study (article)

Financial abuse of seniors often includes elements of emotional and even physical abuse. We would like to thank Network member Carson Thistle for bringing an article, “Responding to Elder Abuse” to our attention from the June 2010 edition of STEP INSIDE, the quarterly publication of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (Canada). By using the story of Margaret, 75, who loses everything she has to an abusive daughter, this article provides excellent insight for anyone interested in learning more about financial abuse, how Power of Attorney can sometimes be abused, and the difficulties in helping a victim receive restitution.

Mr. Thistle notes: “This article tells the story of an individual, it could be you, who went through great pain – physical, emotional and financial. How can you make sure your planning is in place? Financial abuse can have a ripple effect in all aspects of your life. Contact a financial advisor who deals in this area to discuss your situation and put the steps in place to protect yourself. Don’t wait, it could be very painful.”

The Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (http://www.step.ca/) has kindly given NLNPEA permission to reproduce this informative article on the Network website. It can be found in its entirety at: http://www.nlnpea.ca/elder_abuse_articles

Thanks to Carson Thistle for submitting this article. Mr. Thistle is a member of NLNPEA. Thanks also to STEP for allowing us to reproduce this article on our website.

Seniors Guide to Services and Programs in NL (newly updated!)

The Seniors Guide to Services and Programs in Newfoundland and Labrador answers the most common questions and concerns raised by callers to the Seniors Resource Centre NL Information Line (737-2333 or toll-free 1-800-563-5599). It has been updated and revised over the years and is used as a resource throughout the province by seniors, families, and those working with or concerned about seniors.

The guide has recently been updated and can be found at http://www.seniorsresource.ca/Seniors%20Guide%202012%20for%20website.pdf

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Resources Highlight: New and/or Interesting materials (continued)

**Changing Directions, Changing Lives: The Mental Health Strategy for Canada**

On May 8, 2012 the Mental Health Commission of Canada released the first-ever mental health strategy for Canada entitled *Changing Directions, Changing Lives*. The strategy’s purpose is to “help improve mental health and well-being for all people living in Canada and to help create a mental health system that can truly meet the needs of people of all ages living with mental health problems and illnesses and their families.”

Improving seniors’ mental health and preventing elder abuse were among the priorities listed in the strategy under Priority 1.4 Recommendations for action:

1.4.1 Counter the impact of age discrimination on mental health.

1.4.2 Help older adults to participate in meaningful activities, sustain relationships and maintain good physical health.

1.4.3 Increase the capacity of older adults, their families, and those who work with them to identify mental illnesses, dementia, elder abuse, and risk of suicide, and intervene early when problems first emerge.

The strategy can be found online at: [http://strategy.mentalhealthcommission.ca/](http://strategy.mentalhealthcommission.ca/)

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**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 info call the Seniors Resource Centre at 1-800-563-5599 or email eanetwork@seniorsresource.ca.
Our Strategic Plan for the Coming Year

The NL Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse unveiled its strategic plan for its first year as a Network at its World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Event on June 15, 2012. The plan is focused around five strategic directions:

1. Heighten awareness of elder abuse and the resources available to support those affected by this issue.
2. Strengthen the NL Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse through: developing memberships and partnerships, promoting the network, and becoming more provincial in scope.
3. Develop Virtual Resources (www.nlnpea.ca).
4. Identify gaps in elder abuse services, information, and research.
5. Connect with regional, provincial, and national partners to share information and provide input on matters of policy.

The full strategic plan can be found at: http://www.nlnpea.ca/strategic_plan

Our Next Meeting

NLNPEA is pleased to be holding its September public meeting in Corner Brook. Please join us on **September 25 from 7:00-8:30pm** at the Greenwood Inn (Ballroom A), 48 West Street, Corner Brook. Guest speaker to be announced shortly. All are welcome. As usual, the meeting will be accessible by teleconference and webconference for those who cannot attend in person. Please watch for further details on: http://www.nlnpea.ca/Event_postings
NLNPEA News (continued)

NLNPEA World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Event
The NL Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse marked World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15th with a public meeting in St. John’s featuring presentations on: the “Adult Protection Act” by Suzanne Brake, Director, Office for Aging and Seniors, Government of NL; “The Neglected Adults Welfare Act” by Norman Matthews, Social Worker for Neglected Adult Community Support Programs, Eastern Health; and “Financial Abuse: Being Aware and Knowing Where to Seek Assistance” by Stephen Walsh, Counsellor, Credit Counselling Services of Atlantic Canada.

If you missed this event, the slides from these presentations are available on our website at: http://www.nlnpea.ca/NLNPEA_presentations

For more information on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), please see: http://www.cnpea.ca/WEAAD.htm

The NLNPEA would like to thank the presenters at our WEAAD event and those who attended in person or by teleconference.
Join Us!

Membership in NLNPEA is free to any interested individual or group. To register, visit 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:

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

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