

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



New Federal Legislation Passed in House of Commons: *Protecting Canada's Seniors Act*

From a press release from the Department of Justice:

http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/news-nouv/nr-cp/2012/doc_32810.html

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OTTAWA, November 6, 2012 – Today, the Honourable Rob Nicholson, P.C., Q.C., M.P. for Niagara Falls, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and the Honourable Alice Wong, M.P. for Richmond and Minister of State (Seniors), welcomed the passing in the House of Commons of **Bill C-36, the *Protecting Canada's Seniors Act***. The legislation aims to better protect seniors by helping ensure tough sentences for those who take advantage of elderly Canadians. Bill C-36 will now move to the Senate.

"I am pleased that the Protecting Canada's Seniors Act passed in the House of Commons today, and encourage my colleagues in the Senate to support this important piece of legislation aimed at protecting our seniors," said Minister Nicholson. "Crimes against our most vulnerable citizens should not be tolerated, and this Bill ensures that perpetrators would be punished appropriately."

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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

New Federal Legislation Passed... (continued)

"Our government is committed to ensuring the well-being of Canadian seniors and we remain dedicated to ending elder abuse in all its forms," said Minister Wong. "The passing of this important legislation further supports on-going action by our Government to combat elder abuse."

Under the proposed amendments to the Criminal Code, evidence that an offence had a significant impact on the victims due to their age - and other personal circumstances such as their health or financial situation - would be considered an aggravating factor for sentencing purposes.

The amendments would ensure a consistent application of sentencing practices that treat the abuse against individuals who are vulnerable due to their age and other personal circumstances.

The Protecting Canada's Seniors Act was introduced on March 15, 2012.

The Government addresses elder abuse in a number of ways, including its elder abuse awareness campaigns and the New Horizons for Seniors Program, which includes projects to increase awareness. In 2011, the Government increased its investment in the New Horizons for Seniors Program by \$5 million per year, bringing the program's annual budget to \$45 million.

Note: A copy of the bill passed by the House of Commons on Nov. 6, 2012 can be found at:

www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&DocId=5826558

Further info on the legislation can be found at: http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/news-nouv/nr-cp/2012/doc_32716.html

Senior Safety Week (November 6-12)

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, and the Seniors Resource Centre of NL/ NL Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, would like to recognize National Senior's Safety Week, November 6-12, 2012.

Every year, elderly Canadians are abused in their own homes, in relatives' homes, and even in facilities responsible for their care. It is estimated that between four and ten per cent of seniors in Canada experience some kind of abuse. Commonly recognized types of elder abuse include physical, psychological and financial and often, more than one type of abuse occurs at the same time. Abuse can be a single incident or a repeated pattern of behaviour; and financial abuse is the most commonly reported type of elder abuse. Elder Abuse refers to the violence, mistreatment or neglect that older adults living in either private residences or institutions may experience at the hands of their spouses, children, other family members, caregivers, service providers or other individuals in situations of power or trust.

Elder Abuse can manifest itself in a number of behaviors that are noticeable to those who most frequently interact with the elderly. Forms of elder abuse include: Neglect, Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation, Psychological and Emotional Abuse, Economic Abuse (stealing or misusing an elderly person's money or possessions), Institutional Abuse (overcrowded, substandard and/or unsanitary living environments), Violation of Rights (restricting liberty and privacy), and Spiritual Abuse (restricted or denied religious and spiritual practices, customs or traditions).

The Seniors Resource Centre has information pertaining to seniors issues at <http://www.seniorsresource.ca/> and can be reached any time at 1-800-563-5599, where you may learn of services offered or speak with a peer support volunteer. For more information on elder abuse, its indicators, and where to go for assistance, please go to the website of the NL Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse at www.nlpea.ca.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, as in other provinces, adverse weather and its impacts are a major concern. Vital information on emergency preparedness can be found at <http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/index-eng.aspx>

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Senior Safety Week... (continued)

Finally, both the RNC and RCMP are available to provide workshops to interested groups on the Drive Wise program, which provides valuable safe driving strategies. While mature motorists are not statistically involved in more collisions than other groups, they are at a greater risk of serious injury or death. To arrange for a Drive Wise session for your group, please contact your local Police.

Information on recognition of elder abuse and how to deal with it, can be found in the online booklet "The Seniors Guidebook to Safety and Security" at <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/pubs/ccaps-spcca/seniors-aines-eng.htm>; and on the Canada Safety Council website at <https://canadasafetycouncil.org/campaigns/senior-safety>, where there is also information on drug safety for seniors, as well as safe driving tips for mature Canadians.

If you, a family member or someone you know may be abused, you should speak with your local Police.

Submitted by: Sgt. Wayne Newell, RCMP Community and Aboriginal Policing Services; and Cst. Kevin Foley, RNC Community Services.

Report finds Agism Alive and Well in Canada

According to the recently released *Revera Report on Aging*, eight in ten Canadians agree that seniors (75+) are seen as less important than other members in our society.

Furthermore, it reports that Agism is the most tolerated social prejudice in Canada when compared to gender- or race-based discrimination. The report is based on the results of a survey that was completed by 1,501 Canadians in the fall of 2012.

Many experts cite Agism as a contributing cause of elder abuse.

Other findings of the survey include:

- Six in ten (63%) seniors, 66 years of age and older, say they have been treated unfairly or differently because of their age;

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Report finds Agism Alive and Well in Canada ... (continued)

- One in three (35%) Canadians admit they have treated someone differently because of their age; this statistic goes as high as 43% for Gen X (those 33-45 today) and 42% for Gen Y (those 18-32 today);
- Age discrimination towards seniors 66 and older comes primarily from younger people (56%). More than one in four (27%) seniors say they've experienced age discrimination from government and more than one-third (34%) from healthcare professionals and the healthcare system.

The report also made several recommendations:¹

- As individuals and as a society, we must shine a light on the issue of ageism. We need to recognize, call out and challenge the negative stereotypes and assumptions about aging and older people. Rather than make assumptions about an individual's abilities or quality of life based on their age, we need to be open-minded, view aging with optimism and reach out to older adults as vibrant, important and valued contributors to society.
- Organizations need to raise awareness of ageism and be active contributors to ending it. As employers, the value and significant contributions older workers can and do make should not be overlooked. We also need to better understand and meet the diverse needs of older consumers – after all, they encompass a broad age range, and the needs of a 65-year-old may be quite different to those of an 85-year-old.
- Policy makers, both government and non-governmental agencies, need to collaborate and plan for an age-inclusive Canada. Building on the work that governments are already doing, there needs to be continued focus on developing policies that enable people of all ages to have the choices they need to live their lives to the fullest.

Note: The *Revera Report on Aging* was commissioned by Revera Inc, a provider of seniors' accommodations and care services and released in partnership with the International Federation on Ageing. The full report can be found at: <http://ageismore.com/Ageismore/Research.aspx>

¹ *Revera Report on Aging*, pg. 14

Resources Highlight: New and/or Interesting materials

Elder Abuse Is Wrong from the Department of Justice

This booklet is for older adults who may be suffering from abuse by someone they trust – it could be a partner or spouse, a family member, a caregiver, a service provider or another individual. This kind of abuse of intimacy or trust is wrong. People who know an older adult whom they believe may be abused may also find this booklet helpful.

<http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/fv-vf/pub/abus/eaw-mai/p1.html>

Seniors Guidebook to Safety and Security from the RCMP

Seniors Guidebook to Safety and Security: This guidebook contains information that is directed towards the community and, more specifically, seniors and their caregivers to aid in recognizing elder abuse, safety concerns, and frauds and scams. This resource can be found at: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/pubs/ccaps-spcca/seniors-aines-eng.htm>

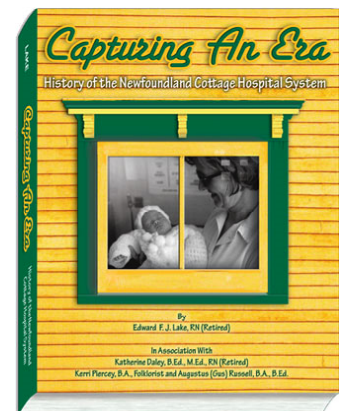


MAKES A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT!!

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.



NLNPEA News

Sorry for the technical difficulties

The NLNPEA would like to thank those who continue to join our monthly meetings by teleconference and webconference. We have had a rash of technical problems in recent meetings and apologize to anyone who has had trouble connecting! To help correct this problem, we have contracted an audio-visual consultant to improve our meeting quality for those joining us remotely. This will involve improving our equipment, finetuning our meeting procedures, and exploring new technologies. We thank you for your patience and hope you will stay tuned as we continue to work to improve in this area.



Our Next Meeting

Join the NL Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse's next public meeting on November 27, from 9:30-11:30am (island time) at Tiffany Village (Multi-purpose room, main floor), 50 Tiffany Court, in St. John's. Guest speaker, Dr. Lisa Adams, with a presentation on "**Stigma and Discrimination in the Elderly: What most people don't know but should know**". Refreshments will be served. This is a free event and all are welcome. No registration required. If you can't make it in person, feel free to join the meeting online.

To join us by teleconference: Dial: 1-866-613-5223

When prompted, enter conference access code: 7360114

Once you've joined us by teleconference for the sound portion of the meeting, you are also welcome to join us by webconference to access any presentation slides we have.

All you need is a computer with an internet connection (and a phone for the audio portion). Just go to: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/join/243449234>

(You may be asked to allow a download to your computer, please accept this.)

Meeting ID: 243-449-234

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
Bay St. George Women's Centre
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

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.