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

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) on June 15th is a United Nations-designated day to raise awareness about elder abuse. It began in 2006 and “represents the one day in the year when the whole world voices its opposition to the abuse and suffering inflicted to some of our older generations.”

Elder abuse continues to be an issue internationally, nationally, and provincially. It is estimated that somewhere between 4 and 10 percent of seniors in Canada experience some kind of abuse. If we apply that percentage to our province’s senior population, that means there may be 8000 seniors in Newfoundland and Labrador who are experiencing abuse.

Community and other organizations across our province are holding WEAAD events on or around June 15. This year, the NL Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse is pleased to be partnering with the Labrador West Status of Women Council and the Public Legal Information Association of NL to hold a “Seniors and the Law” event in Wabush, Labrador to mark WEAAD. For more information on this event, turn to page 6.


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World Elder Abuse Awareness Day... (continued)

Are you organizing an event for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day? Please let us know at eanetwork@seniorsresource.ca so we can post it on our website. Resources for WEAAD (fact sheets on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and Elder Abuse) can be found at http://www.cnpea.ca/WEAAD.htm and WEAAD logos can be downloaded from www.inpea.net/weaad/logos.html.

Call for Proposals for Community-Based Projects for Seniors

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada is now accepting proposals for its Community-based projects under the New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP). Projects under this program that enable seniors to share their knowledge, skills and experiences with others and help communities increase their capacity to address local issues are eligible to receive up to $25,000 per year, per organization.

Projects must address one or more of the program's five objectives:

1. promoting volunteerism among seniors and other generations;
2. engaging seniors in the community through the mentoring of others;
3. expanding awareness of elder abuse, including financial abuse;
4. supporting the social participation and inclusion of seniors; and
5. providing capital assistance for new and existing community projects and/or programs for seniors.

For more information, go to: http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/seniors/funding/community/index.shtml.

**Deadline for all of Canada, except Quebec:** July 5, 2013 (postmarked)
Reducing Seniors’ Isolation: Meet the Home share Program

Submitted by Andrew Harvey, Coordinator, Home Share NL

Home Share NL is a pilot project funded by all three levels of government. Home Share NL is run by an advisory committee with community partners from the Seniors Resource Centre NL, Memorial University, College of the North Atlantic, the Office for Aging and Seniors, the St. John’s Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness, the City of St. John’s, and NL Housing. Our working definition for homesharing is:

*Homesharing is an arrangement where two or more unrelated people share a house or apartment to their mutual advantage. Each person has a private bedroom. The common living areas, such as the kitchen and living room, are shared. Household responsibilities can be shared, or services can be exchanged for a reduced rent or free rent.*


Home Share as a model is done all around the world, with longstanding programs in places like Oxford (England) and Vermont (US). In 2009 a steering committee in St. John’s started meeting to look at the idea of establishing a Home Share Program to assist seniors to remain in their home as long as they would like, and to assist students find affordable housing. After receiving funding for a feasibility study, which indicated that conditions were good for a Home Share program in St. John’s, the committee was able to secure pilot project funding for a 2-year program.

We are currently finishing up our first year of operation for the program and are pleased to have made 5 matches! We expect this fall to be a busy time for us, with students returning to university and housing costs high as always. We currently have 16 homes screened and ready to place students, but are always looking for more homes, particularly ones within walking distance of the MUN/CNA/Marine Institute.

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Meet the Homeshare Program... (continued)

There are many benefits to home sharing, but the number one reason why people report they are interested in the program is because they are lonely. People also report that they would feel safer and sleep better knowing someone else was in the house. These benefits are also in addition to the more direct, economic benefit of having a student in the home to help offset the rising costs of living.

If you are interested in learning more about Home Share, please call (709) 682-0336 or www.HomeShareNL.ca.

Wills and Estates – Frequently Asked Questions

Submitted by Sarah McHugh, Project Coordinator, PLIAN

Recently, the Public Legal Information Association of NL (PLIAN) presented at the NLNPEA’s monthly meeting on the topic of wills, powers of attorney, and advance healthcare directives. Further to that presentation, and for those that could not attend, here are some frequently asked questions that you might find useful. While PLIAN cannot provide legal advice, and therefore cannot get into providing specific instructions, they can provide general information.

Much additional information, including definitions, can be found in PLIAN’s publication Seniors and the Law. This is available online at: www.publiclegalinfo.com/home/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/seniorsandthelaw2011.pdf

Wills

Q. Can an executor live outside the province?

A. Yes. An executor is named in a will, so the person drafting the will (the testator) decides who he/she wants to act as executor. An administrator, a person that acts in a similar way as an executor but in situations where there is NO will, must live in Newfoundland and Labrador.
Wills and Estates… (continued)

Q What does “capacity” mean as it pertains to drafting a will?
A. When dealing with wills, the courts have interpreted capacity to mean that the testator must understand what he/she is doing, must remember and understand the type and amount of property being given in a will, and must understand that the will is benefiting certain people and excluding others.

Powers of Attorney
Q Can an individual name more than one Power of Attorney, and can a Power of Attorney live outside the province?
A. Yes.

Q. Can a person be named both Power of Attorney in one document and a Substitute Decision Maker in an Advance Health Care Directive?
A. Yes, assuming the person meets the legal requirements for both.

Q. Does an Enduring Power of Attorney come into effect ONLY when the donor loses capacity?
A. It depends on how the document is worded. An Enduring Power of Attorney can take effect immediately OR it can take effect after the donor loses capacity. The document can state that the Power of Attorney continues once the donor loses capacity, or can state that the Power of Attorney only comes into effect when the donor loses capacity.

Advance Health Care Directives
Q. How is medical capacity proven in regard to Advance Health Care Directives?
The Advance Health Care Directives Act sets out a process which must be followed where a doctor has made a determination that the maker of an Advance Health Care Directive is not competent to make health care decisions. The process of challenging such a finding is also set out in the Act. You may read the Act here: www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/a04-1.htm

In recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day...

Join us for a FREE information session on

Seniors and the Law

What do you need to know to ensure your wishes are followed in the future?

This free session will help answer this question with plain language legal information on wills, power of attorney and advance health care directives.

This is a free event and all are welcome. Lunch will be served. Registration is required.

Transportation is available if needed.

When: Tuesday, June 11, 10 am (lunch at 12 pm)
Where: Wabush Hotel, 9 Grenfell Drive
For More Info, To Register, and For Transportation: Call Noreen at the Women’s Centre (709) 944-6562

This event is brought to you by the Seniors Resource Centre Newfoundland and Labrador’s NL Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse in partnership with the Labrador West Status of Women Council and Public Legal Information Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, with funding from New Horizons for Seniors, Government of Canada.
Our Next Meeting
Join the NL Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse’s next public meeting on **Tuesday, June 25, from 9:30-11:30am** at **Tiffany Village Retirement Residence**, 50 Tiffany Court, St. John’s. This meeting will also be accessible by teleconference and webinar. Stay tuned to www.nlnpea.ca/Event_postings for more details.

Wanted: Part-time Conference Organizer
The NL Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (Seniors Resource Centre NL) is looking for a detail-oriented person to plan an elder abuse conference in the fall of 2014 and support the Network in other activities. The ideal candidate will have experience in event planning and communications, managing budgets, and working with a committee. He/she should also have strong computer skills, be highly organized, and comfortable with coordinating a wide-range of logistics, including location details, conference presenters, and event registration.

This is a contract position that will start on July 2, 2013 and run until October 31, 2014. The first portion of the contract will be for 2 days a week, and eventually increase to 3 or 4 days/week. The conference organizer will be expected to attend all Network and committee meetings, but otherwise there is some flexibility around when hours are worked. The conference organizer must have the ability to work at home, as well as be willing to spend some hours working out of the Seniors Resource Centre NL.

Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume to the Seniors Resource Centre NL by June 17th. Applications can be sent by email to info@seniorsresource.ca, by fax to 737-3717, or dropped off in person during regular office hours at the Seniors Resource Centre NL, 370 Torbay Road, Suite W100, St. John’s.

For more information on our organization and the NL Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, visit: www.seniorsresource.ca and www.nlnpea.ca

*We thank all applicants for their interest, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.*
Our Members’ News and Events

PLIAN now has “Seniors’ Safety Sessions” audio recordings available on CD at no cost to you! These CDs include educational information on recognizing abuse, signs and symptoms of abuse, local resources, and more. Topics include financial abuse, fraud, physical abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect.

If you would like to receive a copy of one or more of the sessions, you can contact Sarah at 709-722-2805 or projects@publiclegalinfo.com”

Join Us!

Our Mission is:
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.

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.

NLNPEA would like to thank the Rotary Club of St. Johns Northwest and New Horizons for Seniors, Government of Canada for helping to make this newsletter possible.