

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



### New Adult Protection Legislation Proclaimed\*

The *Adult Protection Act* was proclaimed on June 30, 2014 and provides legislative authority to deliver services to any adult in Newfoundland and Labrador who may be in need of protective intervention.

This important new legislation has implications for all adults (including seniors, service providers, community workers, and in fact, the general public and private businesses). For the first time ever, it is now mandatory by law to report the neglect **and/or abuse** of an adult **if that adult does not understand or appreciate the risk of that neglect or abuse**. (Prior to this Act, it was only mandatory to report the *neglect* of a vulnerable adult under the *Neglected Adults Act* of 1973.) This act specifically includes serious physical harm (including sexual assault), psychological or emotional harm (including intimidation or humiliation), and financial abuse (“substantial damage to/loss of assets”), as well as neglect and self-neglect in cases where “an adult is abused or neglected” and:

.../2

**\*This article contains general information only and is not intended to provide legal advice. For legal advice, contact a lawyer.**

#### Contents

- New Adult Protection Act ... 1
- Conference Sneak Peek .... 4
- Conference Info..... 7
- Dance Like a Butterfly..... 8
- WEAAD Events ..... 9
- SVA Week..... 11
- Where to Go for Help..... 12

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Newfoundland and Labrador  
**SENIORS**  
RESOURCE CENTRE  
*Making a difference in the lives of seniors*

## New legislation... (continued)

- lacks the capacity to understand his or her situation; and
- is incapable of caring for himself or herself, or who refuses, delays or is unable to make provision for adequate care and attention for himself or herself.

That means, for example, if someone (a neighbour, doctor, family member, etc.) is aware of an older adult who is being abused and doesn't seem to understand his or her situation or appreciate the risk of the abuse, **that person is obligated by law to report the abuse.**

A general key to understanding the Act is that it does *not* affect an older adult (or any adult) who is mentally capable of understanding the situation they are in. "Service principles outlined in the Act presume every adult has the capacity to make decisions unless the contrary is proven. If the adult is capable and does not harm him/herself or others, he/she may choose to live as he/she wishes."<sup>1</sup>

Along with this Act comes the introduction of a new province-wide number that can be used to report abuse or neglect under this Act:

1-855-376-4957

This number will connect a caller with a social worker in their regional health authority. "Reports may be provided confidentially. If contact information is provided, all names of report sources are kept confidential unless the report source agrees to release his or her personal information, or the disclosure of the information is ordered by the court. The social worker, regional director, or provincial director of adult protection who receives the report must assess and evaluate the situation."<sup>2</sup>

The provincial government has put together a very comprehensive webpage on this Act, which includes links to the legislation and its regulations, as well as to a policy manual for the Act, an information module, and posters (see sample next page), and brochures about the legislation. Please see:

[www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/Adult\\_Protection\\_Act/APA\\_index.html](http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/Adult_Protection_Act/APA_index.html)



<sup>1</sup> *Adult Protection Act Provincial Policy Manual* available online at:

[http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/Adult\\_Protection\\_Act/APA\\_index.html](http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/Adult_Protection_Act/APA_index.html)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

# Reporting Abuse and Neglect Leads to Help.



## **Some adults are unable to protect themselves. Others need protection from someone else.**

The *ADULT PROTECTION ACT* is the law in Newfoundland and Labrador which protects adults who do not understand or appreciate the risk of abuse and neglect.

If you think that someone is being abused or neglected, it is your legal obligation to report it. Failure to do so is an offence and can lead to a **fine of \$10,000 and/or one year imprisonment**. If you suspect someone is being abused or neglected, call toll-free 1-855-376-4957 or contact your regional health authority or local police. You can report confidentially.

For more information regarding the *ADULT PROTECTION ACT*, please visit [www.gov.nl.ca/health](http://www.gov.nl.ca/health).



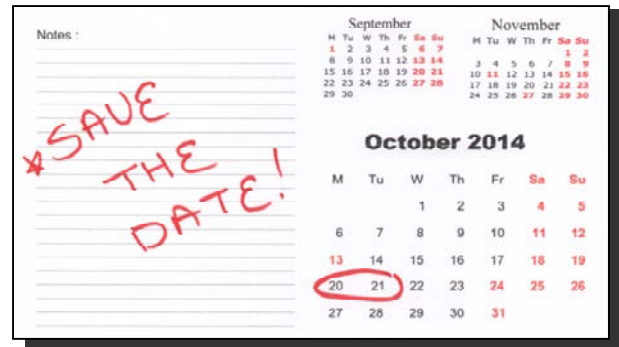
## A Sneak Peek At Our Upcoming Elder Abuse Conference

*Plans are well underway for our upcoming provincial elder abuse conference, **Awareness to Action: Training to Recognize, Report, and Respond to Elder Abuse**, on **October 20-21** in St. John's. We talked to NLNPEA Event Coordinator, Trudy Marshall, to find out more about the conference.*

### **Briefly, tell us about the conference.**

This conference will be an opportunity for Network members and others from all regions of the province to receive training, share information and resources, and connect with each other to address elder abuse. This conference will be of

interest to seniors, service providers, community workers, business professionals and others who work or volunteer with seniors. This might seem like a very broad audience, but we believe we all have to work together to prevent and respond to elder abuse. We can all learn from each other.



### **What motivated the network to put together the conference?**

Three years ago, the Newfoundland and Labrador Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NLNPEA) was formed from the very active Elder Abuse Committee of NL. The development and growth of NLNPEA has strengthened the work carried out by the Seniors Resource Centre of Newfoundland and Labrador and its partners since 1992. The launch of the Network in October 2011 occurred as part of a symposium entitled "Prevention of Elder Abuse: A Shared Responsibility". Forum participants networked, shared resources, and learned about elder abuse. They also provided feedback on the newly formed Network.

## Elder Abuse Conference... (continued)

We felt it was important to build on the awareness raised at this symposium and move to an “action” piece. There is a lot of work occurring in our province to prevent elder abuse. We hope that this conference will provide an opportunity for participants to learn and work together towards ACTION.

### **How was the title of the conference chosen?**

*Awareness to Action: Training to Recognize, Report, and Respond to Elder Abuse* was developed with careful consideration of each phrase. We felt this title really captured a readiness to move to action. For instance, an action might be having a conversation around elder abuse that opens the door to support – but in order for someone to do this, a person needs to have the information, confidence, and skills to follow through.

### **Will conference participants have an opportunity to provide feedback on the success and future of the Network?**

Definitely. This conference is the culmination of a three-year project that was funded by New Horizons for Seniors, Government of Canada to develop the Network. Having our members’ and partners’ input is invaluable to our future success. To that end, we have included a brainstorming and feedback session on the Network as part of the conference agenda.

### **What sorts of sessions and training will be offered at the Conference, and how did you decide what you wanted to focus on?**

Sister Elizabeth Davis, our keynote speaker, will address the importance of moving from awareness to action. Sister Elizabeth is an incredibly inspirational speaker and will help set the tone for the rest of the conference. Our plenary sessions include a panel presentation on “Research to Practice” related to elder abuse and an overview of the new *Adult Protection Act* with information on how it is being rolled out across our province.

## **Elder Abuse Conference...** (continued)

We also have nine concurrent sessions on topics such as financial abuse, ageism, elder abuse resources and tools, and the importance of long-term planning in the prevention of elder abuse.

Training also will be a very important part of the conference. We are offering participants five different training options: modules from the Government of NL's new "Respect Aging" training; a "You Power" workshop about how to support those affected by elder abuse; a transcultural awareness training for those working with seniors; positive behaviour support training for those who care for seniors with dementia; and elder mediation. (Note: For a full conference agenda see [www.nlnpea.ca/conference](http://www.nlnpea.ca/conference).)

A great deal of work went into selecting the topics for this conference. We combined suggestions from all Network workshops and meetings with ideas from steering and program committee members and a "brainstorming session" in November 2013 that was open to all members. We've put a lot of effort into shaping the conference to reflect and embrace the differences of the many participants who will work together to prevent and respond to elder abuse.

## **How is registration going?**

Fantastic. We can accommodate about 150 participants and we are now about 2/3 full. If anyone plans on attending and hasn't registered yet, I would urge them to do it soon. At the moment, all the choices for the concurrent sessions are still available, but some of these are close to being filled. Registering now would guarantee a participant that they get their first choices in the sessions. To register for the conference, go to <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/awareness-to-action-registration-2057103853> or call the Seniors Resource Centre NL at 1-800-563-5599.





*Please join us for our provincial conference...*

## Awareness to Action: Training to Recognize, Report, and Respond to Elder Abuse

*Two days of information sharing and training hosted by the NL Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NLNPEA)*

October 20-21, 2014 at Holiday Inn, St. John's

Network with people across the province as you learn:

- ◆ About the new *Adult Protection Act*
- ◆ How to have a conversation about elder abuse and open the door to support
- ◆ About NLNPEA's activities, members, and partners
- ◆ How to be ready to act – information, resources, supports

Enjoy:

- ◆ An inspirational keynote address
- ◆ Concurrent sessions
- ◆ Formal training
- ◆ Multiple ways to network and share ideas and resources

Conference fees (for 2-days):

\$75 for Network members or \$90 for non-members

For complete details visit: [www.nlnpea.ca/conference](http://www.nlnpea.ca/conference)

Or email us at [eaconference@seniorsresource.ca](mailto:eaconference@seniorsresource.ca)

Or call the Seniors Resource Centre of NL at 1-800-563-5599

*This conference is made possible through funding from New Horizons for Seniors, Government of Canada.*

Join us as part of the conference or as a stand-alone event for...

## *Dance Like a Butterfly*



October 20, 2014, 7:00-9:00pm

Holiday Inn, St. John's

Straight from her sold-out Ontario tour, award-winning actress Lisa Hurd stars in this inspiring, heartwarming, heart wrenching one-woman play about aging and loss of independence by acclaimed playwright Aviva Ravel.

Cash bar opens at 6:30pm

Q & A session follows the play with networking opportunities and refreshments



Tickets are \$10 in advance. To purchase play tickets online go to: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/dance-like-a-butterfly-tickets-12382485347> (or tickets can be purchased as part of conference registration); or call 1-800-563-5599 or email [eaconference@seniorsresource.ca](mailto:eaconference@seniorsresource.ca). Tickets also available at the door for \$15.



## NLNPEA and Member News

### World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Celebrated Across Province

June 15th is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), and this year it was celebrated from St. John's to Stephenville to Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Events included a Seniors Safety Fair in St. John's hosted by the RCMP in partnership with the RNC and NLNPEA; a "Kitchen Party for Seniors" in Stephenville hosted by the Bay St. George Coalition to End Violence; an elder information session in Flat Bay by the Flat Bay-St. Teresa Native Women's Association; a seniors' luncheon in Happy Valley-Goose Bay hosted by Labrador-Grenfell Health, the Nunatsiavut Department of Health and Social Development and the RCMP – just to name a few! In addition, several communities signed proclamations for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – including Labrador City. (See a great pic of this at: <https://twitter.com/ChrisEnsingCBC/status/474229838107406336/photo/1>) .../10

***Over 100 seniors attended the WEAAD Seniors Safety Fair in St. John's to get info from 17 government and community organizations and enjoy some musical entertainment.***



## NLNPEA and Member News

### **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day...** (continued)

This year, NLNPEA tracked and helped to promote these events on its website. It's inspiring to see how many individuals and groups across the province took the time to raise awareness about elder abuse. For those considering an event for next year, see our website ([www.nlnpea.ca/WEAAD](http://www.nlnpea.ca/WEAAD)) for resources with possible ideas for ways to commemorate this important day. (And don't forget to let us know what you are planning so we can help promote it!) After all, WEAAD 2015 is only 11 months away...



**Looking for inspiration for next year? Check out how WEAAD was celebrated in Montreal this year ... with a flashmob!**



This event was organized by Ressources ethnoculturelles contre l'abus envers les aînéEs/ Respecting Elders: Communities Against Abuse, Concactivity, and ACT. View a video of the flashmob at: <http://recaa.ca/>

## NLNPEA and Member News

### From the NL Sexual Assault and Crisis Prevention Centre...

The Newfoundland and Labrador Sexual Assault Crisis and Prevention Centre would like to invite you to attend

## Sexual Violence Awareness Week\*

**Save the Date: Monday, Sept 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday, Sept 19<sup>th</sup>**

This Year's Theme is  
**"Breaking Barriers"**

Featuring the Annual  
Take Back the Night March on Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>  
&  
A Training Conference Focused on "CommUNITY NL"

For more information please call the NLSACPC at:

**747-7757**

Or send an email to:

**[sva@endsexualviolence.com](mailto:sva@endsexualviolence.com)**

\* Are you interested in hosting an event during Sexual Violence Awareness Week? Please contact Janet Lee at [supportservices@endsexualviolence.com](mailto:supportservices@endsexualviolence.com) by **Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.**



## Places to go for help for those experiencing elder abuse

### Health Authority Contact for Elder Abuse:

- **1-855-376-4957** (This toll-free number will connect you with support from your nearest health authority.)

### Who Can You Call If You Are In Immediate Danger?

Dial 911 where the service is available or dial “0” for the operator and you will be connected to emergency response.

- For your nearest RCMP detachment: 1-800-709-7267, TTY 1-800-563 2172
- Or for the RNC:
  - St. John’s: 709-729-8000, TTY 1-800-363-4334
  - Corner Brook: 709-637-4100, TTY 1-800-363-4334
  - Labrador City: 709-944-7602
  - Churchill Falls: 709-925 3524

### Who can you call when in a crisis or feeling distressed?

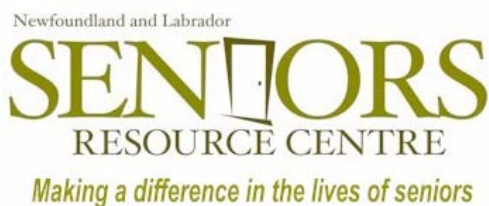
- Seniors Resource Centre NL’s Seniors Information Line: 1- 800-563-5599.  
This line is answered by seniors with training to help you find the supports you need. (M-F, 8:30am to 4:30pm)
- Mental Health Crisis Line 1-888-737-4668 (24 hours/day)
- Sexual Assault Crisis Line 1-800-726-2743 (24 hours/day)

### Want more information on NLNPEA?

See our website at [www.nlnpea.ca](http://www.nlnpea.ca); email us at [eanetwork@seniorsresource.ca](mailto:eanetwork@seniorsresource.ca); or call the **Seniors Resource Centre NL** at 1-800-563-5599.



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



***NLNPEA is an integral part of the Seniors Resource Centre of Newfoundland and Labrador’s efforts to address elder abuse in our province.***