

Elder Abuse Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador (EACNL)



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News: A New Adult Protection Act for Newfoundland and Labrador

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On April 12, a new Adult Protection Act was passed in the House of Assembly. (To view this Bill online, see: www.assembly.nl.ca/business/bills/bill1101.htm)

This Act will be proclaimed once the policies and procedures for it have been developed so that everything will be in place for when the Act is implemented.

The timeframe for this is anticipated to be from several months to a year.

This Act will protect “adults in need of protective intervention” and could be applied in cases of suspected elder abuse or neglect, including self-neglect, where the senior lacks the capacity to make decisions and understand the consequences, relevant to his/her health care, physical, emotional, psychological, financial, legal, residential and/or social needs.

The Act includes mandatory reporting of suspected abuse or neglect of adults in need of protective intervention (i.e., those without decision-making capacity.) The Act will also give professionals a better ability to investigate where there is a suspicion of elder abuse and to remove the adult needing protection quickly when it is considered an immediate necessity.

Until this Act is proclaimed, the Neglected Adults Act remains the active legislation.

The Elder Abuse Committee of NL is pleased to have been involved in the consultations for this new legislation.

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Why am I receiving this newsletter?

If you are receiving this, it means one of your contacts thinks you might be interested in learning more about the Elder Abuse Committee of NL, you are one of the over 400 people we spoke to during our community chats/consultations in Newfoundland and Labrador for our “Creating a Community Response to Elder Abuse” Project in 2006/7, or you’ve contacted us and asked to stay connected. Do you know of others who are interested in preventing elder abuse? Please pass this newsletter along to them. Or if they would like to be added to our distribution list, please have them contact us at the address on page 1. Likewise, if you prefer not to receive further correspondence from us, please let us know. Thank you.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), held every June 15th, is an opportunity for individuals, organizations, communities and governments around the world to recognize the reality of abuse and neglect of older adults. (For more information, go to: <http://www.cnpea.ca/WEAAD.htm>)

This year, the Elder Abuse Committee of NL is recognizing WEAAD by offering a free day-long training event in St. John’s in partnership with NICE (National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly).

NICE is an international network of researchers, practitioners, students and seniors dedicated to improving the care of older adults, both in Canada and abroad. NICE operates through a network of Theme Teams and Committees. Theme Teams review evidenced-based literature to develop user-friendly, interdisciplinary, team-based tools. They then work to disseminate these tools into practice, thus moving research into practice.

In the session, NICE will train participants in the use of tools designed for the intervention of abuse against older persons. Morning sessions will introduce intervention tools. In the afternoon, concurrent sessions are divided into Police and Justice, Health Professionals and Psychosocial Responders, and Building Community Diversity Streams.

To learn more about NICE’s tools, go to www.nicenet.ca/ and click on the “Tools” section of their top menu.



October 3-4, 2011 – Save the Date!

The Elder Abuse Committee of NL will hold its official launch as a provincial network along with a symposium on elder abuse on October 3-4, 2011 in St. John's. The theme for the symposium is "Elder Abuse: A Shared Responsibility". It will include the first Annual General Meeting of the elder abuse network and several educational sessions. The speaker for the plenary session will be Margaret MacPherson from Neighbours, Friends, and Families (www.neighboursfriendsandfamilies.ca).

Further information on the symposium and how to register will be forthcoming shortly. In the meantime, save the date!

**OCTOBER
3-4**



Coming Soon: A New Name

As the **Elder Abuse Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador (EACNL)** nears the end of its two-year journey to develop into a provincial network, it will need a new name. We want our name to reflect our goal, which is to provide information and support to individuals and organizations (from both community and government) working to prevent elder abuse and/or providing services to those affected by this issue. EACNL is exploring options for its new name now and will announce its choice shortly – so watch this space to find out more!

Funding for the initiative to develop into a provincial network has been provided by the New Horizons for Seniors Program. EACNL gratefully acknowledges their support.