

ELDER ABUSE



Types of **ELDER ABUSE**

Violence Against Older Adults Takes Many Forms

Physical

Violence or rough handling causing injury, pain, or discomfort.

Emotional

Any word or act which decreases an older adult's sense of self worth.

Financial

Misuse of a senior's money or possessions through theft, scam or fraud.

Sexual

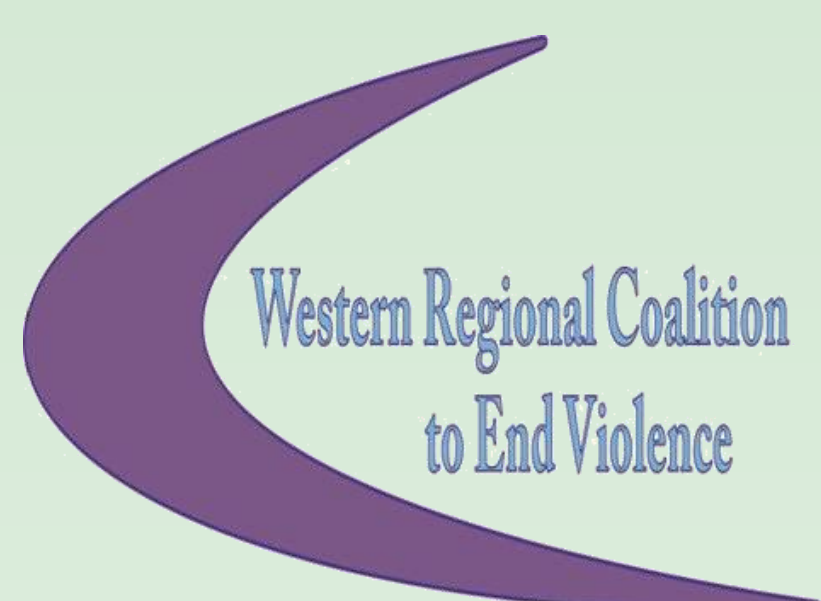
Unwanted touching of, or sexual activity with a senior without their consent or full knowledge.

Neglect

Failure to meet the basic needs of an older adult who cannot meet these needs on their own.

Did You Know?

- Between 44% & 62% of abused seniors experience some level of depression. Up to 6% of abused seniors become severely depressed.
- Living with abuse & neglect can significantly increase the person's chances of becoming ill or worsen health problems.
- The stress of living in an abusive situation shortens older people's lives by several years on average.



Information adapted from:

Government of Canada www.seniors.gc.ca
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador www.gov.nl.ca/vpi
Seniors' Resource Centre Association of NL www.seniorsresource.ca
International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse www.inpea.net

IT'S TIME TO FACE REALITY

www.seniors.gc.ca

ELDER ABUSE



IT'S TIME TO FACE REALITY

www.seniors.gc.ca

IT'S TIME TO FACE THE REALITY

Abuse or neglect of older adults is hidden
& often goes undetected (80%).

Tips for Seniors



- Take some time after the death of a spouse or divorce before making major life changes.
- Resist making decisions under pressure. Get a second opinion from a trusted friend, family member or professional.
- Be careful about sharing your personal banking information with other people.
- Consider automatic bank deposits/payments.
- For major decisions involving property, use a lawyer or community advocate to help consider options.
- Carefully consider requests for money or property. If you give someone money, write down the amount, person's name, date & if it's a loan or gift. Ask them to sign the written document.

Never ignore *ELDER ABUSE!*

Contact your local police department immediately

RNC: 709-637-4100 / 1-800-363-4334

RCMP: 1-800-709-7267

Western Health: 709-634-5551 (ext. 226)

Senior's Resource Centre of NL: 1-800-563-5599 (information/referral)

Victim Services Program: 709-729-7970 (collect calls accepted)

Western Regional Coalition to End Violence 709-634-6606 (information)

ELDER ABUSE



What are the **WARNING SIGNS**?

Older adults who are experiencing abuse or neglect may:

- Tell you they are being harmed
- Show signs of depression or anxiety
- Seem fearful around certain people
- Become socially withdrawn and isolated
- Become passive and very compliant
- Have unexplained injuries or repeated 'accidents'
- Lack food, clothing & other necessities
- Show changes in hygiene or nutrition
- Have unusual withdrawals from their bank
- Shows signs of neglect or lack of money for needed items. Unable to meet financial obligations
- May be unsettled and upset
- Be critical or put herself/ himself down
- Has feelings of guilt and blame

Who Abuses Seniors?

Older adults are often mistreated by someone who they trust, who are responsible for their care & who has power over them. Seniors are abused by their:

Adult Children, Spouse/Partner, Caregiver, Other Family Member, Friend, Neighbour, Stranger

***Remember...Seniors are entitled to respect.
There is no excuse for abuse.***