

Call 911 if you
experience,
witness or
suspect abuse

Elder Abuse Contacts: British Columbia-wide Contacts

- Elder Abuse Prevention
Victimlink BC, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Call 9-1-1
- BC Centre for Elder Advocacy and Support
Toll Free: 1-866-437-1940
- SeniorsBC.ca
Toll Free: 1-800-663-7867
- Elder Abuse- Healthlink BC
Toll Free anywhere in the province: 9-1-1
or 310-1234
- Victimlink BC, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Toll Free: 1-800-563-0808

To report abuse, neglect or self-neglect of an older adult who cannot seek support and assistance on their own, contact:

- Northern Health
Adult Protection Line: 1 844 465-7414
Prince George: 250 565-7414
- Interior Health
Office for Vulnerable and Incapable Adults
Ph: 250 364-5395
Email: IHAdultguardianship@interiorhealth.ca
Visit the web link for direct community numbers:
www.interiorhealth.ca/reportabuse
- Vancouver Coastal Health ReAct Adult Protection Program
Ph: 1 877 REACT-99 (1 877 732-2899)
www.vchreact.ca/index.htm
- Island Health
South Island: 1 888 533-2273
Central Island: 1 877 734-4101
North Island: 1 866 928-4988
www.viha.ca
- Fraser Health
Ph: 1 877 REACT-08 (1 877 732-2808)
www.fraserhealth.ca/your-care/abuse-assault-and-neglect/

www.mnbc.ca

Elder Abuse *among Métis*



Elder abuse is any action by someone in a relationship of trust that results in harm or distress to an older person. Elder abuse often occurs because of the abuser's power and control over an older person. Older adults affected by abuse often know and trust the person mistreating them. Elder abuse can be caused by a family member, a friend, someone who provides assistance with basic needs or services, or healthcare providers in institutional settings.

What is Elder Abuse?

- Abuse is a strong word, but it can happen to anyone.
- Abuse is wrong because:
 - * It violates your basic right to feel safe where you live
 - * It is controlling behavior which makes you feel intimidated or afraid
 - * It can be illegal
- What you should know about Abuse:
 - * often the abuser may be moody or angry
 - * it often increases in frequency and severity over time
 - * some people deny they are being abused because they think they are to blame for another person's angry behavior

Metis Elders and Seniors at Risk

Elders are “individuals especially knowledgeable and experienced in (Métis) culture... most closely in touch with the philosophical teaching of life,” states the 1996 Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. Our traditional values around caring for and respecting our elders and aged members of community may not always be upheld today. Our Métis Elders and Seniors may be vulnerable and at risk of experiencing elder abuse. Colonization, Residential School impacts, family cycles, urbanization, and societal pressures have changed how older people are sometimes treated today. There can be less respect and at times blatant disrespect.

If a close relative or friend
abuses you, you do not need
to feel ashamed. It is not your
fault. It is controlling behaviour.

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Psychological and Emotional Abuse

Psychological and emotional abuse comes from words or actions that are hurtful and make Elders feel unloved and ignored. Examples include isolation and disrespect, humiliation, intimidation, and threats to harm pets, property or loved ones.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is any unwanted sexual behaviour. It can include: sexual comments, fondling or sexual assault, being forced to commit degrading acts

Institutional Abuse

British Columbia has special laws for the protection of people who are in care. The Protection For Persons In Care Act ensures it is against the law for Elders to be abused by staff or others involved in institutions such as hospitals or seniors' centres. It is also against the law for Elders to be admitted to care inappropriately.

Financial Abuse

Financial abuse includes being persuaded or bullied into loaning or giving money. Examples can include people moving into a home without a shared agreement of costs or financial decisions made on behalf of someone without prior consent.

Medication Abuse

The misuse of medications or prescriptions on purpose or by accident, such as not providing your medications when needed or prescribed or providing dosages that cause you bodily harm or sedate you.

If you suspect medication abuse, talk with your doctor, pharmacist, nurse, home care worker or someone you trust

Neglect

Neglect happens if a person is not being cared for properly by a caregiver, such as being provided proper food, clothing, medical supplies or supervision.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is any physical action that causes bodily harm, such as pain, injury or discomfort. Examples could include hitting, physical restraint, confinement or exposure to severe weather.

Orders and Law that Protect Elders

Many forms of abuse are covered under the Criminal Code of Canada. They include:

- Physical Assault
- Sexual Assault
- Uttering threats
- Harassment
- Theft
- Fraud
- Intimidation
- Theft by power of attorney
- Neglect by caregivers

The law can also help by implementing victim assistance orders such as:

PROTECTION OR RESTRAINING ORDERS

Protection orders can stop an abuser from hurting or threatening to hurt an Elder. These orders make it against the law for a person or persons to come into contact with an Elder.

PEACE BONDS

A person is expected to keep the peace and obey any other conditions the court requests under a peace bond. It can be used as a form of punishment when someone has committed a minor criminal offence and can be granted for a maximum of 12 months.

ADULT PROTECTION LAWS

Health authorities are responsible to respond to cases of abuse, neglect and self-neglect. These laws provide the victim with the health, social and other services they may require. This law is not aimed at punishing the abuser.

ADULT GUARDIANSHIP LAWS

Decision-making powers are given to a designated person to protect the Elder and the Elder's property.

PERSONAL DIRECTIVES

Personal directives are legal documents written by an Elder outlining personal choices if the Elder cannot make those decisions for health reasons.

Advance care planning is making a plan for future health care while you are still able to make health care decisions for yourself. It can be hard to think and talk about the end of one's life but it's best to do these things before a crisis occurs. Talk with loved ones and health professionals about the kinds of care that is or is not preferred, including conversations to continue or to abandon life-support measures. Don't assume that family and health professionals know what you want.

TYPES OF



ABUSE

If you are being abused talk to someone.
Keep talking until someone listens

