

# **FREDA National Research Event – November 2012**

*Intersectional Identities –  
Immigrant and Older Women  
A Community Response to Abuse  
of Older Adults*



# BC Association of Community Response Networks

*Stopping Adult Abuse and Neglect...Together*

## ***Introduction*** **to** **the BC CRN**

# The BC Association of Community Response Networks

## OUR VISION

safe communities in which each person is valued, respected and free from the fear of abuse and neglect.



# The BC Association of Community Response Networks

We are a provincial organization that grew out of the need to create an on-going, support structure for the benefit of local CRNs working to provide a coordinated response to the abuse ,neglect and self-neglect of adults in their community.



# The BC Association of Community Response Networks

Registered as a not for profit society in 2003, we are active in the province of BC and have federal charitable tax status.



# Principles that Guide our Work

**The BC CRN holds true the following principles:**

- Inclusion
- Meaningful Participation
- Power sharing
- Assumption of capability / building of capacity



## **Our Work is Guided by:**

***The belief that together we can stop adult abuse and neglect.***

*We also know:*

***“Legislation alone doesn't keep people safe. Communities keep people safe.”***



# A CRN or Community Response Network

is a diverse group of concerned community members who come together to create a coordinated community response to adult abuse, neglect and self-neglect.





# CRNs or Community Response Networks

"The work is as much about the process of working together as it is about the outcomes."

"We need to change our thinking about who can make changes happen - it's not just highly placed people."



# BC CRN Purposes

1. To promote safe communities, through the development of community networks where individuals, private and public sector organizations and committed community members can participate in activities to prevent abuse, neglect and self-neglect of adults



# BC CRN Purposes

2. To support communities in their responses to adults who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect or self-neglect



## BC CRN Purposes

3. To sustain these community networks by providing programs and services to help with their activities and operations.



## BC CRN Purposes

4. To support other initiatives that benefit adults experiencing or at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect or self-neglect



## BC CRN In Action:

With

- direction from our Board of Directors
- the leadership of our Executive Director
- 2 Team Leaders
- and supported by 2 administration staff

at present 11 Regional Mentors work with communities to develop CRNs and to sustain them.



## BC CRN In Action:

As we continue to grow the CRN movement our Regional Mentor team will expand to 14 contractors.



## BC CRN In Action:

We work in partnership with the Health Authorities, the Public Guardian & Trustee, police and provincial social and health service and justice organizations and ministries to achieve our purposes.





# BC CRN In Action:

## *Programs & Services*

- Monthly provincial teleconferences
- BC CRN web site
- Development and Project Grants
- Education & Awareness materials including World Elder Abuse Awareness Day



## BC CRN In Action:

- Advocacy at a provincial and national level
- Support and assistance from Regional Mentors





# BC Association of Community Response Networks

*Stopping Adult Abuse and Neglect... Together*

[www.bccrns.ca](http://www.bccrns.ca)



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*PART 3 OF THE Adult Guardianship  
Act:*

***SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE FOR  
ABUSED/NEGLECTED ADULTS***

# What is “Adult Guardianship”?

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- BC laws about how various decisions will be made for us as adults, if we ever become mentally incapable of making our own decisions

# Guiding Principles

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## □ Self-Determination

- All adults are entitled to live in the manner they wish and to accept or refuse support, assistance or protection as long as they do not harm others and they are capable of making decisions about those matters;

# Guiding Principles

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## □ Just Enough Support

- All adults should receive the most effective, but least intrusive, form of support, assistance or protection when they are unable to care for themselves or their assets;

## □ Court as a Last Resort

- The court should not be asked to appoint, and should appoint, decision makers or guardians unless alternatives such as the provision of support and assistance have been tried and carefully considered

# Presumption of Capability

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3. (1) Until the contrary is demonstrated, every adult is presumed to be capable of making decisions about personal care, health care, legal matters or about the adult's financial affairs, business or assets
- (2) An adult's way of communicating with others is not grounds for deciding that he or she is incapable of making decisions about anything referred to in subsection (1).



# Adult Guardianship Legislation

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- ❑ 4 Acts carefully interwoven as a comprehensive package based on principles
- ❑ Selected sections proclaimed over time beginning in February 2000

# New Adult Guardianship Legislation

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- *Representation Agreement Act*
  - Mostly, except the Registry
- *Health Care (Consent) and Care Facility (Admission) Act*
  - Health care consent, now no Review Board
- ***Adult Guardianship Act***
  - **Part 3 only – addressing abuse and neglect**
- *Public Guardian and Trustee Act*
  - Mostly, clarifies PGT roles

# **ADULT GUARDIANSHIP**

## **ACT PART 3**

Support and Assistance for  
Abused and Neglected Adults

# What Part 3 Provides.....

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- Enables two interrelated responses –
  - Designation of agencies who have a duty to look into abuse reports received (voluntary reporting to them, but a mandatory response), and access to new legal tools in the most complex circumstances
  - Creation of coordinated community responses, or teams, known as Community Response Networks (CRNs)

# Designated Agencies in BC

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- Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
- Providence Health Care Society  
(Vancouver)
- Fraser Health Authority
- Interior Health Authority
- Vancouver Island Health Authority
- Northern Health Authority
- Community Living BC

# The Purpose of Part 3, *Adult Guardianship Act*

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- To provide support and assistance for adults who are abused and neglected and who are unable to get help on their own because of:
  - physical restraint
  - physical handicap that limits their ability to seek help, or
  - an illness, disease, injury or other condition that affects their ability to make decisions about the abuse or neglect

# Mandate

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Organizations, agencies and individuals who already had a role in supporting adults, or responding to abuse or neglect continue to do so.

## **In addition...with Part 3 in force:**

...if a Designated Agency receives a report of abuse, neglect or self-neglect of an adult, or becomes aware through the course of its work, it must

- Look into the situation
- Involve the adult as much as possible
- Report criminal offences to the police

# The Role of the Designated Agency

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Designated agencies may also:

- Intervene in emergencies by working with the police to remove adult to a safe place, get needed health care
- Liaise with the PGT if initial inquiry reveals adult's assets are at risk – overlapping role to investigate
- Obtain orders from the Provincial Court, Family Division -
  - Access order
  - Interim or longer term restraining orders
  - Support and Assistance order



# Responding to Abuse & Neglect

## Role of the Police

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- ❑ No new authority with the implementation of the Adult Guardianship Act – Part 3.
- ❑ Role is to investigate to determine if there is evidence of a criminal offence
- ❑ Role in keeping the peace
- ❑ RCMP, E-Division Provincial Policy directs detachments to identify a key contact to work with designated agencies and to participate in CRNs

# Responding to Abuse and Neglect

## Role of the Public Guardian and Trustee

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- ❑ Provide consultation and information on the legislation;
- ❑ Investigate substitutes (Power of Attorney, Representative, Trustee, Committee) if adult is not capable (PGT Act gives authority to demand accounting from substitutes);
- ❑ Exercise protective provisions (i.e. freeze bank accounts or place Caveats on property);
- ❑ Authority to request information to conduct investigations (i.e. Banks, land titles, etc);

# **Responding to Abuse and Neglect**

## Role of the Public Guardian and Trustee

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- ❑ Arrange for assessments related to Support and Assistance court orders;
- ❑ Pursue authority as committee if warranted (usually certificate);
- ❑ As committee, pursue civil remedies as appropriate (client cost)

# National Resources

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- Canadian Centre for Elder Law

<http://www.bcli.org/ccel>

- Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

<http://www.cnpea.ca/>

- National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly

<http://www.nicenet.ca>

"Our current social problems are too complex to be addressed through quick fixes proposed by any single person, discipline, organization or government. Our problems are complex because of interwoven relationships and the interdependencies of systems and the people in them.

In community work it is tempting to rush in, usually alone, where angels fear to tread. There is a tendency to reduce complex matters to single solutions and to hit them over the head with the hammer we use best. Even when we do this over and over without results, we try again and hope for success...Slow down... you are changing a culture!"

- Frances Ricks et al. All Together Now: Creating a Social Capital Mosaic

# Contact

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