



## **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is Here!!!**

A Strawberry Tea, Breakfast for Business People, conferences, display booths, and luncheons to honour seniors: What do all these events have in common?

They are just some of the activities being planned to mark the first ever **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, 2006!**

On and around June 15, 2006 communities through BC – and the rest of the world – will be hopping with celebrations of all kinds that will hopefully shine a spotlight on the issue of senior abuse and raise awareness that we all must be part of the solution.

Here are some of the confirmed events being hosted, co-hosted or organized by local CRNs throughout the province:

### **Vernon:**

A luncheon for Service Groups to explain what the CRN movement is all about, and raise public awareness about the issue of abuse

### **Prince George:**

Rotarians are hosting a Strawberry Tea on June 17 where members of the local CRN will have a chance to talk about their work.

### **Revelstoke:**

Elders will be honoured at the local Seniors Centre with a Birthday Party! Posters advertising the event proclaim: "What a perfect world would look like if there were no abuse!"

### **Castlegar:**

United Way has provided funding for a Seniors Conference entitled "Scam Prevention". There will be a presentation by "Wise Owl". A smaller but similar event will be held in **Nelson** too.

### **Penticton:**

Deigned to raise the profile of abuse/neglect and the role of the CRN, there will be a major poster blitz, covering the town with the community meeting back at a central place for refreshments

### **Kelowna:**

Maybe there will be a banner on the highway and a civic proclamation!!!

### **Summerland:**

Breakfast for Business People will be hosted by the CRN. Guardianship Laws, CRNs and Abuse are the topics.

### **Kimberley, Cranbrook, Ridge/Meadows:**

These communities will do poster campaigns.

### **Elk Valley:**

The Elk Valley CRN is hosting a senior abuse awareness meeting with RCMP, Designated Agencies, and other CRN members, local newspaper and other media.

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### **Prince Rupert:**

A tea will be held for seniors to celebrate inclusion and diversity, to educate about abuse of seniors and identify resources available to assist those who are or may be abused. The organizers have invited East Indian, Philippino and First Nations Dance groups, a children's choir, high school students and women from the Red Hat Society to serve and assist. The Prince Rupert CRN, Transition House, RCMP Victim Services, RCMP, the Salvation Army, Friendship House, the Seniors Centre are hosting this event.

### **Peachland:**

Peachland CRN Will be hosting a Community Talk.

### **Victoria:**

Victoria CRN is hosting a resource fair followed by a DVD presentation and panel discussion. The DVD entitled "Finding a Future for Ellen" will dramatize the abusive relationship between a senior and her daughter and is a production of BC CEAS.

### **Oceanside (Parksville/Qualicum)**

There will be a display at the Parksville Civic and Technology Centre with information about the day, the Oceanside Community Response Network, Gatekeepers and community partners

### **Abbotsford**

Intergenerational Strawberry Tea with youth and seniors featuring a theatre production called "Tooth or Dare", a lighthearted play about two seniors who fall in love to the dismay and concern of their "interfering" adult children.

### **Creston**

The Creston CRN is hosting a display/resource fair in a local park with refreshments

Events are also taking place on the **North Shore**, and **Kamloops** and possibly others.

## **BC Proclaims the World Day!**

Honourable Minister Ida Chong of the Ministry of Community Services is announcing that BC has proclaimed the World Day!!! This is great news. The wording for the provincial proclamation can be found at on the BC CRN Association website [www.bccrns.ca](http://www.bccrns.ca)

In addition, many civic governments have proclaimed the World Day as well, and the list will be posted on the Association website as soon as it becomes available.

## **Our ED Speaks at the UN in the Big Apple!**

As many of you know, in addition to working with us, Alison is the volunteer chair of the Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (CNPEA – where many World Day materials and other valuable resources can be found – [www.cnpea.ca](http://www.cnpea.ca)). In this capacity, she has been invited to speak at the world inauguration for the World Day at the United Nations. This is one of those once in a lifetime opportunities. Not surprising, her message there is: "We need to treat seniors with respect, continue to proactively involve them in addressing and preventing senior abuse and neglect, address all forms of discrimination affecting seniors and all citizens, more adequately fund services to assist, and build community capacity. In short, we need CRNs or whatever the culturally appropriate equivalent might be - world wide!"

## **The Friesen Conference a Success**

Contracted staff and volunteers of the BC Association presented the well-received CRN Play showing a CRN in Action at the Conference. Thanks so much to all those good sports!!!



L – R – Debb Barg, Joe Scaletta, Heather Von Ilberg, Marlyn Ferguson, Jim Poole, Kathy Doerksen, April Struthers, Yvonne Kennedy and Alison Leaney

The BC Adult Abuse/Neglect Prevention Collaborative hosted a session in which we collected a huge number of resources, contacts and possible solutions to a number of systemic issues the Collaborative has identified to be in need of much more work.

The Friesen Conference was the venue for the presentation of the first Annual Older Adult Abuse and Neglect Awareness to Action Award where two pioneers of the abuse and neglect and CRN movement were honoured.

**Helen Kuhn** of Quesnel and **Pearl McKenzie** of Black Creek. In addition two CRNs were acknowledged as having innovative programs, the **Support the Supporters Project of the North Shore Community Support Network**, and the **Gatekeeper Program of the Oceanside Response Network** (Parksville/Qualicum). Congratulations to all of you and all those nominated

## BC World Day Events Prior to June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006

### Quesnel:

The Legal Remedies and Financial Abuse Workshop will be held June 7 – lots of interest from the financial institutions. The CRN has met with Canada Post workers who are now “on the watch for seniors”.

### Fraser Area of the Lower Mainland:

On behalf of the Association and the PGT Alison Leaney was invited to co-present with Sgt. Brian Trainor of the Saskatoon Police Service at a series of five sessions sponsored by Westminster Savings called “Elder Issues: Preventing Financial Abuse; Planning for the Future”. Westminster Savings placed many ads in local newspapers and arranged for Brian and I to be on the Bill Good Show to have their events mark the World Day. We’re very grateful for the exposure we received as a result; special thanks to **Margaret Easton**, **Barry Forbes** (President and CEO), **Wayne McKay**, and **Nina Shin** and all the other managers and staff of Westminster Savings Credit Union.

### World Day Across Canada

Yukon, BC, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, and PEI are among the provinces and territories that have proclaimed the World Day. Many amazing and creative activities will take place. Check it all out at [www.cnpea.ca](http://www.cnpea.ca).

### BC Association of CRNs News AGM

Thursday, June 22, 2006 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Please pre-register at [crns@telus.net](mailto:crns@telus.net)

**New Brochure, Logo, Name** – see

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

**Province-wide News Release** co-issued with BC CEAS - see [www.bccrns.ca](http://www.bccrns.ca)

Questions?

Comments?

Want to volunteer?

Want to make a donation?

Please contact

[edcrns@telus.net](mailto:edcrns@telus.net) or

[lindaderkach@shaw.ca](mailto:lindaderkach@shaw.ca)

We look forward to hearing from you!