



*CONTEXT: The B.C. Association of Community Response Networks (BCACRN) grew out of the need to create an on-going, permanent provincial funding and support structure for the benefit of local Community Response Networks (CRNs), and adults in their communities experiencing (or affected by) abuse, neglect and self-neglect. A CRN is a diverse group of concerned community members who come together to create a coordinated community response to adult abuse, neglect and self-neglect. For more information, please refer to our website, at <http://www.bccrns.ca>.*

## NEW HORIZONS PROJECT

BCACRN was awarded one of two of BC's major projects under a 2009 Federal funding call aimed at prevention of abuse of older adults. The project is to run eighteen months, with regional events being held across BC from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011. The project objectives are:

- **Rebuilding local membership and connecting networks**
- **Spreading information** about local, regional, provincial and federal projects in the field of prevention of abuse of older adults (within and outside of existing CRNs.)

Recent research shows:

- 1) People are not aware of the rapidly growing wealth of knowledge
- 2) People want to connect with projects and others in the field.

We think there are about **twenty initiatives** or projects at provincial and federal levels we need to know about. **In addition we are depending on you in your CRNs to inform all of us of your successes and challenges/‘learnings’.**

- **Supporting other BC Projects**, such as the ‘**Finding Home**’ Project (Multicultural Seniors Dialogues), which is about Elder Financial Abuse Awareness. This project has an ethno-cultural approach and the support of **Neighborhood Houses**. BCACRN will also cooperate with the **BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres** in a project focused on prevention of abuse of older adults, which was funded earlier.

## PROJECT STEPS:

Project steps are similar to those outlined in theories that develop living systems to create social change, which include strengthening networks, creating groups of networks (communities of practice); and building a ‘system of influence’ [www.margaretwheatley.com](http://www.margaretwheatley.com). The phases of this project are:

1. Enhance networks and inform each other about what is happening in regional conferences
2. Network the networks around issues or geographically (or however they want to be connected)
3. Spread the information gained from the regional gatherings back to the provincial level and in the national arena through a virtual conference

## WHO WE WANT TO ATTEND:

- People who are passionate about the rights of older adults
- Concerned community members
- Front line workers
- People who can affect policy change
- Current and potential CRN members

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## PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF 10 REGIONAL GATHERINGS

	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>SAMPLING OF COMMUNITIES</b>
1.	Castlegar	October 2010	Castlegar, Cranbrook, Creston, Grand Forks, Kaslo, Nelson, Salmo, Trail
2.	Kamloops	October/November 2010	Kamloops, Ashcroft, Barriere, Clearwater, 100 Mile House, Salmon Arm, Merritt, Revelstoke
3.	Penticton	October/November 2010	Penticton, Armstrong, Kelowna, Summerland, Vernon
4.	Fraser Valley	November 2010 January 2011	Abbotsford, Langley, Delta, Surrey, South Fraser, Hope, Chilliwack, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows
5.	Lower Mainland	November 2010/ January 2011	Vancouver, Burnaby, New Westminster, Tri Cities
6.	North Island	February 2011	Courtenay, Comox, Powell River, Port Hardy, Campbell River
7.	South Island	Early March 2011	Duncan, Port Alberni, Victoria, Nanaimo, Ladysmith, Parksville
8.	Quesnel	May 2011	Quesnel, Prince George, Williams Lake
9.	North West	April / May 2011	Prince Rupert, Terrace
10.	North East	June 2011	Fort St John, Dawson Creek