



3<sup>rd</sup> Fl., 411 Dunsmuir St.  
Vancouver BC V6B 1X4  
Phone: (604) 437-1940  
Fax: (604) 437-1929  
Toll Free: 1(866)437-1940  
Web: [www.bcceas.com](http://www.bcceas.com)



142 – 757 West Hastings St  
Suite 684  
Vancouver BC V6C 1A1  
Phone: (604) 660-4482  
Email: [edcrns@telus.net](mailto:edcrns@telus.net)  
Web: [www.bccrns.ca](http://www.bccrns.ca)

For Immediate Release

### **Second Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – June 15 Communities Take Action**

“It is estimated that one in twelve active seniors in BC experience some form of financial abuse, and that 4-10% of BC seniors will experience some form of abuse in their later years” says Penny Bain, Executive Director of the BC Coalition to Eliminate Abuse of Seniors (BC CEAS).

The second ever World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – June 15<sup>th</sup> has been declared internationally, here in BC and locally, as well as in other jurisdictions across Canada to shed light on this family violence issue that has remained in the closet for far too long.

“Although it is difficult to admit, some of the abuse, financial and otherwise comes from people in positions of trust including family members, not just strangers”, says Alison Leaney, Executive Director of the BC Association of Community Response Networks.

The BC Association of Community Response Networks (BCACRN) was established to increase public awareness of adult abuse and neglect and to create systems to help those in need find support within their community. Those local systems, called Community Response Networks or CRNs also provide training, educational and prevention programs to help people know their rights, keep themselves safe, and understand the factors that can put any of us at risk.

More than 25 CRNs across BC are organizing awareness raising events taking place between May 1 and June 18, 2007. Those events include community workshops using the BC CEAS produced, “Finding a Future for Ellen” DVD starring long time seniors advocate Joyce Schmalz and legal information counselor, Dr. Nassir Amiri, civic proclamations, mall displays, intergenerational events and conferences. The Vernon/Lumby and Armstrong/Enderby CRNs hosted the Aging Well in BC conference in Vernon on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Guest speakers

included Dr. Patricia Baird, Chair of the Premier's Seniors Council on Aging who among other things recommended that the work of voluntary organizations like CRNs and BC CEAS be supported by the provincial government..

The BCACRN is currently hosting its first ever Provincial Online Auction with the following items up for bid: Ryobi 7 Peice Cordless Tool Set from Home Depot, over \$950.00 value Return Comfort Class tickets for 2 passengers for travel between Vancouver and Jasper from VIA Rail, Dunlop Womens Golf Clubs from Kal Tire, Sports Gear, Office Chair, Professional Consulting Services, Bed & Breakfast, Ski Passes, Art, Skin Care Products, Picnic Table, Kayaking, Books, Home Furniture and much much more! To bid in the Auction, or to find out more about CRNs visit the BC Association of CRNs' website [www.bccrns.ca](http://www.bccrns.ca)

In addition to producing educational materials, BC CEAS operates a legal information line for seniors, and advocates on many issues impacting seniors. These issues include: greater public awareness of abuse of older adults; specialized police investigation and victim support units; and improved access to legal services for older adults who cannot afford a lawyer and are not eligible for legal aid.

BC CEAS is also the host agency for the Vanguard Project, a project of the BC Adult Abuse/Neglect Prevention Collaborative The Collaborative received a grant from the Law Foundation of BC to research, better articulate and address the many legislative and systemic problems experienced by vulnerable adults who are abused or at risk of being abused. These issues include housing issues, immigration and sponsorship issues, and lack of access to justice issues, to name a few.

““The Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia is pleased to support these efforts to raise awareness of elder abuse, “ states Jay Chalke, QC, the Public Guardian and Trustee. “Building strong connections in every community can help make all of us safer.”

If you feel you have been the victim of any type of abuse or know someone who has, Leaney and Bain encourage you to get help. You can call the BCCEAS province-wide toll-free Legal Information and Referrral Line, funded by the Law Foundation of BC – 1 – 866 – 437 – 1940 or 604 – 437 – 1940 in the Lower Mainland or

VictimLINK 1 – 800 563 – 0808

Your local police

Visit the Public Guardian and Trustee's website for more local community numbers – [www.trustee.bc.ca](http://www.trustee.bc.ca)

Other organizations concerned about abuse and neglect of seniors who have produced helpful resource materials and/or piloted new programs include:

BC Yukon Society of Transition Houses <http://www.bcysth.ca>  
Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse <http://www.cnpea.ca>  
International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse <http://inpea.net>

Backgrounder

Attached or [www.bccrns.ca](http://www.bccrns.ca) or [www.bcceas.ca](http://www.bcceas.ca)

For more info, contact:

Penny Bain – Executive Director, BC Coalition to Eliminate Abuse of Seniors at  
604 – 437 – 1940 or [bainceas@telus.net](mailto:bainceas@telus.net)

Alison Leaney – Executive Director, BC Association of Community Response  
Networks at 604 – 306 – 7344 or [edcrns@telus.net](mailto:edcrns@telus.net)