



E-Connector

The BC Association of Community Response Networks (BC CRN) Newsletter

BC's Community Response Networks (CRNs)

An Upcoming E-Connector Series



(Photo: BC CRN)

Community response networks (CRNs) are fundamental to the BC CRN. Without them, we wouldn't be able to do the work we do with communities in educating others on adult abuse, neglect, and self-neglect prevention.

We've seen new CRNs being established, and existing CRNs becoming more active than before.

CRN's are about:

- Education to increase awareness of adult abuse and neglect in the community.
- Facilitating conversations designed to share knowledge of how to prevent, reduce, and respond to abuse and neglect.
- Relationship building between people and organizations that provide support.
- Coordinating of supports and services.
- Building a community's capacity to address abuse and neglect.¹

¹ CRN Guide and Toolkit (2016), BC CRN, p. 14

The role of a CRN is not about:

- Case management: individual CRN members may have a professional role to support, assist, and/or intervene in specific cases of abuse and neglect. The CRN as a whole does not.
- Acting as a “gatekeeper”: CRN members do not have the authority or responsibility to oversee the activity of agencies that do have this responsibility.
- Discussing individual situations of abuse or neglect, or delivering services and programs to individuals.
- Acting as a legal entity.²

In E-Connector, we regularly profile projects and the people behind them to illustrate some of the activities that help a CRN raise awareness of adult abuse, neglect, and self-neglect.

Over the year, we’ll be examining how CRNs across regions operate, and how they are similar and different. In short, there is no standard model to form a CRN, nor is there a single operating model. Each CRN is as unique as the people they serve and the community they’re in, whether it’s a large urban centre, rural village, or island community.

We hope that this limited series will create conversation across CRNs, inspire you to start a CRN in your community if it doesn’t have one, and encourage community members to get involved.

If you are a CRN who would like to have your story considered for one of these articles, please contact Debbie Hultgren by email at debbie@linkscommsolutions.com.

For more information on how to set up a CRN, view our [guide and toolkit](#) and contact the [regional mentor](#) in your area on how to get started.

BC CRN’s Newest CRN

We welcome the Lower Mainland LGBTQ2S+ community response network (CRNs) to BC CRN! This CRN was established in November 2018.



More CRNs are in the process of signing with us! Watch out for this news in upcoming edition!

If you’d like to get involved in a CRN in your neighbourhood, look them up on our [website](#), or contact us at info@bccrns.ca.

Reminder to CRNs: Year End Paperwork Due

CRNs: please submit your year-end forms, project grants, and invoices as soon as possible to **Arlene Johnston**.

Arlene can be contacted at arlene.johnston@bccrns.ca.

² Ibid.

We're Hiring!

BC CRN is searching for a dynamic individual to fill the role of Regional Mentor – Vancouver Island South and join the team! [View detailed job posting and job description.](#)

Please submit your application attention to **Sherry Baker**, BC CRN Executive Director (ed@bccrns.ca) **before February 14, 2019.**

Big thanks and gratitude to **Bridey Morrison Morgan**, the current mentor for the region, for her contributions in the role.

Volunteer of the Month: Julia Hunter, Grandview Woodlands CRN

Vancouver is an urban centre with a population of approximately 2.7 million people calling the metropolitan area home³. The city is multicultural and multi-generational, and provides an opportunity for several community response networks (CRNs) to collaborate and cross geographical boundaries to serve the population's most vulnerable.

*This month, we profile **Julia Hunter**, half of the coordinator team for the Grandview Woodlands CRN (mostly). After completing her studies in Nova Scotia to be a dietitian three years ago and working in Toronto for the school system developing food literacy programs, Julia relocated to Vancouver in October 2017 where she accepted the role of community development coordinator for the Brightside Community Homes Foundation.*



Photo: J. Hunter

Early Career Working with Schools

Shortly after university, and a brief stint working for a food testing company, Julia began doing health promotion in BC elementary schools. “I worked with teachers, students, and staff to promote healthier school environments geared towards nutrition, physical activity, and mental health.” says Julia. “This was my first taste doing community development work. It allowed me to work in communities all over the province.”

Volunteer Experiences with Seniors, Immigrant Mothers

During university, Julia spent time volunteering for seniors and immigrant expectant mothers. She adds: “I volunteered at a seniors’ home while at university in Nova Scotia. I helped with mealtime feedings to ensure seniors were getting the nutrition they needed. Many had difficulties handling forks

³ [Stats Canada, 2017 Census](#)

or spoons, or were on texturized diets due to swallowing difficulties. It was important someone support them through those challenges.

“Back in Toronto, I volunteered for a program out of a community clinic working with expectant immigrant moms, ensuring they receive education on healthy pregnancies while they participated in group meals. The friendships and support systems that were created allowed moms and families to thrive. It was amazing to see.”

Julia’s multi-generational experience would serve her well when she moved to Vancouver to work for Brightside Community Homes Foundation.

“Working with seniors is different than with kids. It’s very black and white when messaging to teachers and students about healthy eating. With seniors, they’re at a different stage of life, and their needs are more complex, and how I deliver that information to a diverse population so it is understood is more challenging. We have to be resourceful with how we share resources and problem solve.”

Dual Roles Serve Seniors

Brightside is Vancouver’s largest and longest standing housing societies, and has established homes in nearly every neighbourhood in the city. Seniors, families, and people with disabilities make up their residents.

“We have 26 buildings comprising of over 950 homes, and over 1,000 residents,” continues Julia. “With over 60% of the residents also being seniors, we see the effects of social isolation. The vision, mission, and goals of BC CRN and Brightside align well. A lot of our events are tailored and seasonal to ensure seniors can get out into the community year-round.”

In addition to coordinating events for the Grandview Woodlands CRN, Julia has also been involved in the West Vancouver, Renfrew Collingwood, and the LGBTQ2S+ CRNs. An event last December brought together Indigenous and non-Indigenous seniors and adults where all enjoyed a cultural lunch, and discussed feedback on a project involving aboriginal service needs and programs.⁴

“Because there are so many seniors in Vancouver, there are opportunities to connect them to the different events, programs, and initiatives across neighbourhood boundaries. It’s important we work together to reduce isolation so seniors feel safe, and are exposed to support and resources as they continue to age in place.”

Future Planning Professionally and Personally

“This year, I’d like to really plan ahead and think about something really meaningful. Now that I’ve had that much more time to be immersed in in the role and the city, I’m looking forward to brainstorming something unique that would be beneficial to the community,” says Julia. “Being involved in Brightside and the CRNs have opened my eyes to lots of issues and ways of life I’ve never seen before. It makes me hopeful that I can have an impact on the people I work with, and in the community where I live. So many people are willing to work with us, and this is exciting!” states Julia.

⁴ This research project was presented by the Aboriginal Live in Vancouver Society (ALIVE).

Julia is also seeking her next volunteer experience, which she hopes will be in food security. “Volunteering is important to me: I like helping and meeting new people this way. And now that I’m doing community development, volunteering also builds a sense of community for myself.”

Why She is an Exceptional Volunteer

“Over a short period of time, Julia has embraced the vision, mission, and values of the organization. She’s done stellar work in connecting with community organizations across Vancouver,” says Brightside Director of Strategic Initiatives and Special Projects **Carolina Ibarra**. “Improving our communities requires communication and collaboration among networks of partners, pooling resources, and innovating together. BC CRN has been pivotal in facilitating such collaboration.”

Susan Moore, BC CRN’s Regional Mentor – Vancouver adds: “Julia is an exceptional collaborator and her passion for community impact is reflected in her pursuit of innovative projects designed to support vulnerable adults.”

If you know of an outstanding volunteer in your CRN who should be profiled, email us at info@bccrns.ca.

#WEAAD2019: It’s Time to Start Planning!

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) was officially recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 66/127, December 2011, following a request by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), who first established the commemoration in June 2006.

It represents the one day in the year when the whole world voices its opposition to the abuse and suffering inflicted to some of our older generations.

It’s the perfect time to put #WEAAD2018 into your calendar and start planning your activities today!

View BC CRN’s [Spread the Word Guide](#) for activity ideas, or contact your [local community response network](#) (CRN) to get involved.



Provincial Learning Events

February 19, 2019: Tackling Ageism Through ‘Slow Tours and Fast Connections’ presented by April Struthers of [BC CRN](#) and [Wit Works Ltd.](#)

Participants will learn how an intergenerational Canadian/American music touring project - labelled a ‘civic innovation’ - connected with communities and combatted ageism.

This event features the music of Colorado-based Courtney Hartman, and Mayne Island resident Taylor Ashton, who have recently released *Been on Your Side*.

April Struthers is BC CRN’s Regional Mentor – Sunshine Coast, and an independent consultant who works internationally in social change, prevention research, and community engagement. She writes often in the field of prevention of adult abuse.

Provincial Learning Events are toll-free teleconferences that take place the third Tuesday of the month from 10:30 am to 12 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Email info@bccrns.ca to receive notifications of upcoming teleconferences and to receive dial-in info.

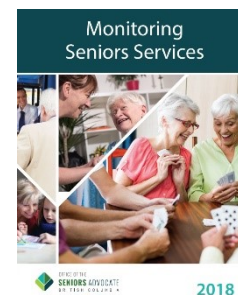
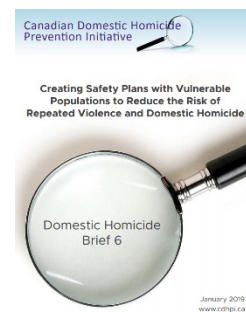


Photo: bccrns.ca

[Access materials for previous events.](#)

Our Top 3: Resources of the Month

1. [Domestic Homicide Brief 6: Creating Safety Plans with Vulnerable Populations to Reduce the Risk of Repeated Violence and Domestic Homicide](#) (January 2019): Produced by the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative, safety planning with vulnerable populations is discussed in detail including common challenges, promising practices, and emerging issues. Safety planning tools and resources are provided.
2. [Legal Toolkit: General Information About Legal Issues and Court Matters in British Columbia](#) (2016): Produced by the BC Society of Transition Houses, the purpose of the toolkit is to provide frontline workers with legal information and resources tailored to meet the needs of the anti-violence sector.
3. [Monitoring Seniors Services](#) (2018): Produced by the Office of the Seniors Advocate, this report contains the current status and performance of seniors’ services with the intent of improvement.



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Our Top 5: Headlines of the Month

1. [Magic words: The power of reading aloud](#), Globe and Mail, Jan. 11, 2019
2. [Physical, financial crimes against B.C. seniors jump, report says](#), CBC News, Jan. 12, 2019
3. [Vancouver Island getting new, government-funded 'dementia village'](#), Daily Hive, Jan. 21, 2019
4. [Lethbridge senior swindled out of \\$250,000 in sweepstakes scam](#), CTV News Calgary, Jan. 21, 2019
5. [How your attitude about getting older can affect how you age](#), NextAvenue.com, Dec. 28, 2018

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Campaigns & Professional Development Events

- **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) 2019**

June 15, 2019, Worldwide

Start planning your event now! View BC CRN's [Spread the Word Guide](#) for ideas on how to raise awareness of adult abuse, neglect, and self-neglect on this very important day!

- **Reducing Elder Abuse in BC: Together in Action Conference, Council to Reduce Elder Abuse (CREA)**

May 2-3, 2019, Richmond, BC, Canada

Save the dates! More information on programming to come!

- **28th John K. Friesen Conference: Understanding and Fostering Resilience in Older Adults**

June 10-11, 2019, SFU Vancouver Campus, 515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada

Host Organization: The Simon Fraser University Gerontology Research Centre in collaboration with the SFU Lifelong Learning Adult 55+ Program.

This conference will address the ways in which seniors bounce back from different types and combinations of adversity – termed resilience. Some of the challenges that will be addressed include: mental and physical health issues, especially multimorbidity; family change such as widowhood; socio-economic deprivation; social isolation and loneliness; ageism and discrimination; housing problems; and environmental disasters, to name a few.

[View more information, and details on how to register.](#)

E Connector is published 11 times a year (monthly except for a combined July/Aug. issue).

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