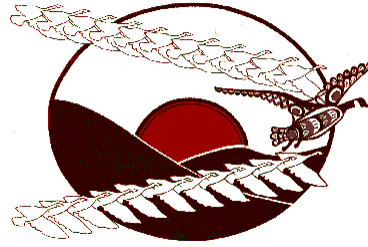


“Honoring our Elders” Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention *Community Action Plans*

BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres



Introduction

The Honoring Our Elders Program provides a small grant to Friendship Centres to bring together community organizations serving Aboriginal Elders. The purpose is to raise awareness of and prevent abuses including physical, financial, sexual, emotional, neglect and isolation of Elders in Aboriginal communities across BC.

The BCAAFC hopes to support local Friendship Centres to develop a **Community Action Plan** that will support the Elders they serve. By including other agencies who serve Aboriginal Elders, we will build a better understanding on what services exist and how we can all become a blanket of support for Elders.

We have included a variety of project examples as we recognize how varied each community's needs are, responding to Elder abuse. The BCAAFC has developed Elder Abuse workshop resources and will support Friendship Centres.

Abuse is a complex issue and often involves many factors.

The existence of one or more of the following may put Aboriginal Elders at increased risk:

- **History of abuse in family/domestic violence**
- **Diminished capacity to make decisions**
- **Isolation**

Community Action Plan Options

Option 1: Community Action Groups on Elder Abuse



BCAAFC Elder Council Founding Members
From left to right – George Cook, Marge White and
Basil "Buzz" Morrisette



BCAAFC Elder and Youth Gathering
Victoria, B.C., June 5th, 2010

- ***Coordinate an Elder Abuse advisory group within your community***

~Designate one coordinator as the main Elder contact

~Host a planning session with Elder support workers, Elders, and youth leaders to build a working group for your project

- ***Develop a local directory of Elder Abuse Resources, Supports and Services***

~Host a mapping exercise to identify existing and potential Elder supports for the community and surrounding area for a coordinated approach to Elder services

~Contact the community agencies serving Aboriginal Elders to meet together

~This community Elder Abuse action group can prioritize and work on projects

~Strengthen social supports by coordinating Elders home-based services and Elders community programming

Option 2: Host Elder Abuse Workshops

- **Peer Training for Elders**

~Contact the BCAAFC Elder Coordinator to have one of the BCAAFC Elder Council founding members empower a local Friendship Centre Elder to host a workshop at your Centre

~BCAAFC can support the designated employee and Elder to plan and host a workshop for Elders and Elder support workers in your community

- **Elder abuse workshops for Elder support workers**

~Use the BCAAFC Elder Abuse workshop resources as a first step in engaging other agencies serving Elders in your community

Option 3: Coordinate an Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention Event

~The Aboriginal Organization may wish to initially host an event which raises awareness of Elder abuse in the community

~Community organizations will understand what services they each provide for Elders and identify ways to work together in building safer communities for Elders

Partners could include:

Aboriginal community...

- Friendship Centre employees-key Elder supports
- Local Nation-key Elder supports
- Metis locals-key Elder supports
- Indian Residential School Survivors Society
www.irsss.ca
- Aboriginal Housing
- Assoc of BC FN Treatment Programs
<http://www.firstnationstreatment.org/index.htm>

Agencies serving Aboriginal Elders...

- Home Support or Personal Care Workers
- Addictions Counselor
- Community Centers
- Community Health Nurse or Health Representative (CHR)
- RCMP
- Community Legal Clinic
- Banks
- Social Worker
- Salvation Army
- Libraries
- Meals on Wheels program

Existing Elder community response networks...

- BC Community Response Networks (CRN's)
<http://www.bccrns.ca/crns/index.php>

Provincial resource materials...

- Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia
www.trustee.bc.ca
- BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses
www.bcysth.ca
- BC Centre for Elder Advocacy & Support
www.bcceas.ca, toll-free 1.866.437.1940
- BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counseling Programs
<http://www.endingviolence.org>

Ideas on How to Empower Elders

- **Involve Elders in Programs**

~ *Inviting Elders*, seek advice from the designated Elder advisor at the Friendship Centre on the best way to invite Elders

~ *Empower Elders* by providing a range of activities. Contact the BCAAFC Elder Coordinator to find out how Elders are involved in BC's Friendship Centres

~ *Decrease isolation*, ask if they are willing to share their skills or what types programs they would participate in i.e. share their cultural knowledge; mentor families in programs; coordinate activities such as community garden or preparing healthy Traditional foods, identify native plants; establish a craft co-op to sustain the programming (make two-take one home); cultural family camp

- **Develop an Elders' Day Program**

~ Honour founding members of the Friendship Centre

- **Organize Elders**

~ Elder's Council or informal Elders group? Meeting regularly is the key

- **Host monthly Elder Gatherings**

~ Propose agencies to alternate hosting a monthly Elders lunch and activities and support mainstream agencies in building their cultural awareness, streamline services and meeting the needs of Aboriginal Elders



WE EMBRACE OUR ELDERS BECAUSE THEY ARE OUR MOTHERS, FATHER, GRANDMOTHERS, GRANDFATHERS, AUNTIES, UNCLES, BROTHERS AND SISTERS. THEY ARE INTEGRAL TO EVERYTHING WE ARE AND THEY ARE THE STEWARDS OF OUR LAND – THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY, THEY HAVE TAKEN CARE OF US.

BCAAFC Elders Programs

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