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## ***Future Us:*** **A Roadmap to Elder Abuse Prevention**

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A Pan-Canadian Engagement Strategy  
for Anyone and Everyone



CANADIAN NETWORK for  
the PREVENTION of ELDER ABUSE  
RÉSEAU CANADIEN pour la PRÉVENTION  
du MAUVAIS TRAITEMENT des AÎNÉS



## Elder Abuse Elgin

*“I alone cannot change the world, but I can  
cast a stone across the waters to create  
many ripples.”*

– Mother Teresa



## Agenda for Presentation

1. Elder Abuse – definitions, forms of Elder Abuse (EA), prevalence
2. Elder Abuse Elgin – who we are, our vision, our goals/strategies
3. Future Us: a roadmap to Elder Abuse Prevention
4. How Municipalities can help
5. Questions

## **Elder Abuse Definition**

The World Health Organization defines elder abuse as: “a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older adult”.

## **Forms of Elder Abuse (CNPEA.ca)**

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional
- Financial
- Violation of rights and freedoms
- Neglect
- Systemic violence

## **Prevalence of Elder Abuse**

- 10% of older adults, 55+, experience abuse or neglect
- 3300 seniors in Elgin County being abused
- elder abuse is extremely underreported
- in the next 15 years the number of seniors will increase by 68%
- time to act is now!



## **Elder Abuse Elgin**

Who we are – “a non-profit group committed to addressing the issues of elder abuse in Elgin County through education, advocacy and liaison with community resources”.

## **Our Vision**

*We Envision an Elgin County where  
seniors have a strong voice, feel safe  
and respected*



## **Our Goals**

Mobilize the community

Communication

Advocacy

Case consultation

Funding

## Elgin County Community Response to Elder Abuse

Elgin County seniors and service providers are committed to working together to address abuse of older adults. As a result of a collaborative effort over many years, the following mechanisms have been put in place to support a community wide response:

- **Elder Abuse Elgin** – Meets quarterly to work with existing services to make Elgin County a place where older adults can live free from any form of abuse. For more information about the activities of the committee or to become a member, please email us at [elderabuseelgin@gmail.com](mailto:elderabuseelgin@gmail.com)
- **Case Consultation Committee** – a multidisciplinary group of professionals that provide consultation on complex cases of suspected elder abuse. To present a case, service providers or concerned individuals please email us at [elderabuseelgin@gmail.com](mailto:elderabuseelgin@gmail.com)



- **Seniors Safety Line** - 24 hour crisis and support line for seniors in Ontario, *operated by the Assaulted Women's Help Line*. Trained and caring counsellors are available to listen, support, and help navigate difficult situations by providing information and referrals and safety planning for seniors who have experienced any type of abuse or neglect. The SSL also assists anyone concerned about a senior with a variety of issues, including abuse.

24/7/365 days a year, in over 200 languages

**1-866-299-1011**

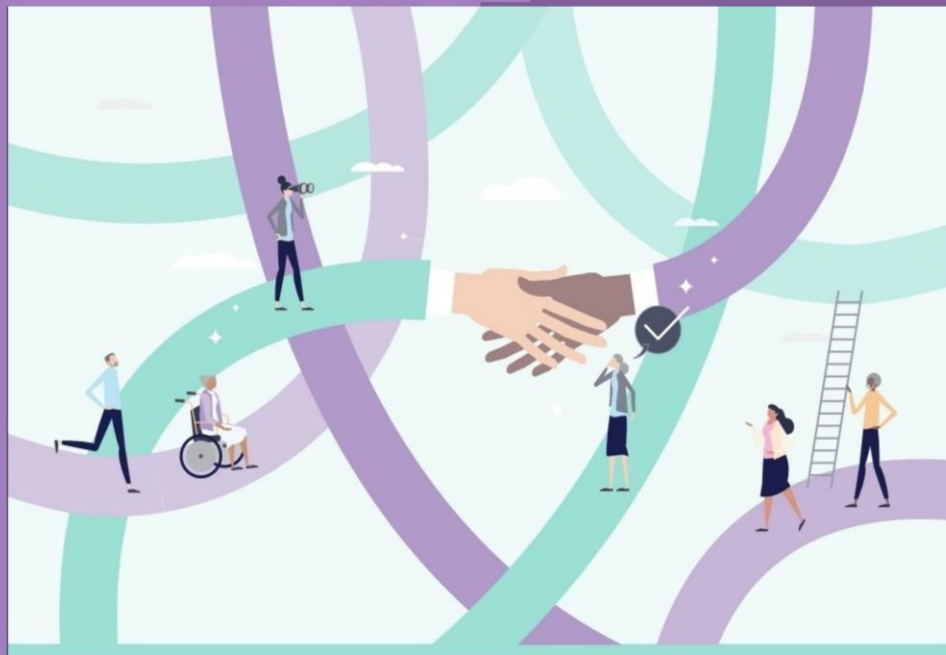
- **Speakers Bureau** – Speakers for presentations and training, community-wide workshops as well as resource materials. If you would like to request a speaker or training session for your organization/agency, please contact us at [elderabuseelgin@gmail.com](mailto:elderabuseelgin@gmail.com)

Please remember:

Elder abuse is the responsibility of our community as a whole, and in Elgin we are committed to a collaborative response to identify and eliminate the mistreatment of older adults.

## Community Partners

- Alzheimer Society of Elgin-St. Thomas
- Canadian Association for Retired Persons
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Central Community Health Centre
- Community Seniors & volunteers
- East Elgin Family Health Team
- Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario
- Elgin County Homes and Senior Services
- Elgin County OPP
- Elgin-Oxford Legal Clinic
- Gunn & Associates
- Home and Community Care Support Services – South West
- Mennonite Community Services
- Ontario Ministry for Seniors & Accessibility
- OPP Veterans Association Chapter #2
- Registered Nurses Association of Ontario
- Retired Teachers of Ontario
- Southwest Public Health – St. Thomas Unit
- St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital
- St. Thomas-Elgin Social Services
- St. Thomas Police Services
- St. Thomas Times Journal
- Talbot Manor Retirement Home
- Victim Services Elgin
- Violence Against Women Services Elgin County
- VON – Elgin Branch
- West Elgin Community Health Centre



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We all have a role to play!

- Citizens
- Organizations
- Communities
- Researchers
- Governments
- Politicians
- Bureaucrats

## Governments

- Federal – endorse, fund nationally, incentives to Provinces/Territories
- Provincial/Territorial – recognize EA as priority, fund provincially, incentives to Municipalities
- Municipalities – recognize EA as priority, fund local networks

## Future Us (and Elder Abuse Elgin) Aspirational Goals

- Elder abuse is recognized as a priority issue in every Province and Territory, with a strategy
- Elder abuse prevention networks are established and funded at the local, provincial/territorial and national levels
- Ongoing public education is delivered through elder abuse prevention networks

## Municipalities Can Help

- ✓ Endorse the Future Us Roadmap
- ✓ Make elder abuse prevention a priority in the City and County
- ✓ Work with Provincial and Federal governments to fund your local network (see page 25 in Future Us – cost-sharing plan)

Thank you for your time!

What do you see as next steps  
for you to help prevent Elder  
Abuse?

We are available to meet with  
you at any time to discuss in  
more detail!

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