



Seniors' Advocate Recognizes World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, a day to raise awareness about elder abuse and neglect, and to promote the dignity and respect of older adults.

Ageist attitudes and beliefs are often linked to elder abuse and social isolation, which is why the Office of the Seniors' Advocate launched a social media campaign for the month of June to address ageism. By combating negative stereotypes about aging, the Office of the Seniors' Advocate is highlighting the positive contributions, vast array of interests and many possibilities that come with aging.

Elder abuse can be emotional, physical, sexual, financial or psychological, and may also take the form of neglect or self-neglect. Seniors may experience abuse from family, friends, neighbors, caregivers or professionals. Therefore, it is important to spot the signs of elder abuse and report it by calling 1-855-376-4957 or contacting your local police department/detachment.

Potential signs of abuse include:

- Agitation or fear of being alone with a specific person;
- Isolation from family and friends or social gatherings;
- Unexplained fractures, bruises, burns, scars, accidents or injuries;
- Appearing dirty, underfed, dehydrated, over or undermedicated, or otherwise not receiving required medical care;
- Insufficient money despite apparent adequate income;
- Sudden withdrawal of money, or changes in banking information; or
- Unexplained or forced changes to legal documents including property titles, will, powers of attorney or advance health care directives.

Quote

“Addressing ageism is an important piece of combatting elder abuse. Ensuring that seniors are connected within their communities, with access to social supports and services, is also crucial in protecting against elder abuse. As a province and as a society, we must continue to work towards age- and dementia-friendly communities that support all seniors in Newfoundland and Labrador. We must remember that under the Adult Protection Act, we all have a legal responsibility to report suspected abuse.”

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