



**WORLD ELDER ABUSE
AWARENESS DAY
2021**
Rights Don't Get Old

**MUNICIPAL PROCLAMATION
WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY
June 15, 2021**

- WHEREAS:** The Town of Aylmer's seniors are valued, contributing members of society, imparting a wealth of experience and wisdom in our communities. They deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. It is our collective responsibility to ensure they live safely and fully engaged within the community that cares about them.
- WHEREAS:** The **International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse**, in support of the **United Nations International Plan of Action**, proclaimed this day to recognize the significance of elder abuse as both a public health and human rights issue; and
- WHEREAS:** **2021** Marks the **16th Anniversary of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**. Its recognition will foster a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older adults; and
- WHEREAS:** Elder abuse is not limited to race, gender, culture, or circumstance, and regardless of whether the abuse is physical, emotional, or financial, it has a significant impact on the lives of individuals and families; and
- WHEREAS:** Seniors are at risk of being abused and social isolation and ageism are contributing risk factors in Ontario; and
- WHEREAS:** The Town of Aylmer recognizes the importance of taking action, to create social change, that prevents elder abuse and raises awareness, through education of neighbours, friends and family members about the Rights of older adults; and
- WHEREAS:** Preventing abuse of older adults will help improve their quality of life and allow them to live independently and contribute to the vibrancy of Ontario for as long as possible; and
- WHEREAS:** Where there is **Respect** there can be no abuse; therefore, residents of Ontario are urged to ***Stop Abuse and Restore Respect.***
- WHEREAS:** Where there is respect there can be no abuse; therefore, residents of The Town of Aylmer, are urged to join this global movement to Stop Abuse and Restore Respect.

THEREFORE; I, Mary French, Mayor of The Town of Aylmer, Ontario do hereby proclaim June 15 as **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day** and encourage all of our residents to recognize and celebrate seniors and their ongoing contributions to the success and vitality of our province, Ontario.

Dated on this day of second day of June, 2021.



Signature



Responding to the Abuse of Older Adults

If the situation is an emergency and you believe the senior is at risk call 911.

If you suspect that a senior is being mistreated, you should speak to that person. Help them consider options. Remain non-judgemental and supportive. Respect the senior's decision, should they decide to stay in the abusive relationship.

For more information or
to get help call:
Seniors Safety Line
1-866-299-1011

If it's an EMERGENCY call

911

Printed in partnership with these
Community Elder Abuse Networks:

Elder Abuse Elgin
Oxford County Elder Abuse Network
Elder Abuse London Middlesex
Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health
Access Centre
Perth County Elder Abuse Committee
Huron County Elder Abuse Prevention
Grey-Bruce Senior Safety Network

And with the assistance of:



**KEEPING SENIORS
SAFE**



Consider support for the senior
through the Seniors Safety Line
1-866-229-1011

Addressing the abuse and
neglect of older adults together

Stop Abuse
Restore Respect

Mistreatment of Older Adults Can Include:

Financial Abuse

- Theft of a person's money, property or assets
- Misuse of power of attorney
- Forcing to sell property

Physical Abuse

- Pushing
- Shaking
- Hitting
- Over/under medicating
- Restraining

Psychological Abuse

- Threatening
- Bullying
- Humiliating
- Treating like a child

Neglect

Denying adequate:

- Nutrition
- Aids
- Medical attention
- Safe shelter
- Clothing

Sexual

- Inappropriate touching
- Forcing to engage in sexual behaviour that was not agreed to



Abuse is any action or inaction, by a person in a position of trust, which causes harm to an older adult.

ABUSE OF OLDER ADULTS

An Older Adult May...

- Live alone or with the abuser
- Be socially isolated
- Depend on the abuser
- Have some mental or physical frailty

An Abuser May...

- Have limited coping capacity
- Feel angry, resentful, frustrated
- Have substance abuse problems
- Have financial, family or health problems
- Be dependent on the victim

How Community Elder Abuse Networks Are Helping

Elder Abuse Networks work collaboratively with local seniors and service providers. Here are some of the ways they are addressing elder abuse in your community.

Elder Abuse Committees

- ✓ Regular meetings together
- ✓ Education and awareness events
- ✓ Advocacy
- ✓ Case consultation
- ✓ Speakers for workshops, training
- ✓ Distribute resource materials

Seniors Safety Line *in partnership with*
Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario

- ✓ Trained and caring staff
- ✓ Listen, support and assist senior callers, friends, concerned family, and service providers.
- ✓ 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- ✓ Respond in over 200 languages.
- ✓ Calls are confidential.

1-866-299-1011

For more information or to access
any of these services call:
Seniors Safety Line at
1-866-299-1011

COVID19 Specific Frauds and Scams

Here is a list of the top 10 scams and frauds currently being used to prey on vulnerable seniors during the COVID19 crisis*

Government Focused

- Emails, phone calls and text messages encouraging seniors to apply for COVID-related government benefits by clicking on a link.
- A version of the CRA scam where fraudsters threaten that your “provincial medical benefits” have run out (or are running out) and you need to send money either to reinstate them or to buy private medical insurance.
- A phone call from someone posing as a representative from the provincial or municipal health authority saying that you have been found to have COVID - or you have been found to have been exposed to COVID - and to give them your credit card to pay for testing or results.
- Canada Post / UPS - delivery frauds - a telephone call saying that you have an (often international) package which has been attempted to be delivered, but you need to call them to pay duty or shipping first.

Bank & Insurance Focused

- Fake “financial planners” calling seniors about opportunities to get their investment portfolios back up due to COVID19 losses.
- Fake bank messages asking for your SIN number and banking information so that they can set up a direct deposit for government funds due to COVID.


Family, Friends & Community Focused

- Deceptive websites asking you to help purchase Personal Protective Equipment for front line health care providers by donating (paying by credit card).
- Community helping scams where callers say that they are trying to connect with Socially Isolated seniors so that they can “help them”. In some instances, these callers are predators who are actually trying to identify vulnerable seniors so that they can get into their house, sell them things, or steal their personal information.

IMPORTANT NOTE: There are legitimate organizations reaching out to vulnerable seniors during the COVID19 crisis. To ensure that you are speaking with a reputable organization, ask them for their phone number and then call them back before providing any personal information. And NEVER give out financial information.


- Romance Scams through social media and on-line dating sites focused on seniors who may be feeling lonely as a result of being isolated because of COVID, and are spending more time socializing online.
- A version of the Grandparent Scam - but this time the “grandchild” is stuck overseas and can’t get home because of COVID restrictions but with enough money can get a “special flight” - and “don’t tell mom or dad”.

For More Information

 The **Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre** collects information on fraud and identity theft.

For more information, visit <https://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/>

Reporting to Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre

 **By phone:** 1-888-495-8501 (toll free)

Calls are answered **Mon to Fri**, from **10am to 4:45pm** EST

 **Online:** bit.ly/CanAge-report-fraud

Log into the tool using one of the following options:

- GC Key (user ID / password)
- Sign-In Partners (banking credentials)



Elder Abuse Prevention (ON)

Stop Abuse - Restore Respect

Prévention de la maltraitance envers les aînés (ON)

Arrêtez les mauvais traitements - Restaurez le respect

CanAge
www.canage.ca



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day: June 15

Violence and abuse rates of older adults increase when people do not have an adequate income, affordable housing, secure sources of food, or are not treated with respect and dignity. Elder abuse is a societal issue, not just an individual one.

We need systemic changes brought about by leaders who have the political will and authority to address the root causes of poverty, inequity, and discrimination across a person's lifespan.

Dear Council of the Town of Aylmer,

Each year, on June 15th World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), we come together as a global community, concerned with abuse and neglect of older adults. On behalf of Elder Abuse Elgin I am writing to you today, to invite you to join us. This past year has brought an even greater sense of urgency for the need to increase awareness and response.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly increased the conditions for the abuse for older adults - from adult children moving back home, the rise in financial pressures, to isolation and loneliness reaching never-before seen levels. Agencies providing services to victims reported as much as a ten-fold increase of incidents in the first few months of 2020. Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario reported a 250% increase in elder abuse cases in the past year. It is time to educate and engage all Canadians about this issue.

ABOUT US

For more than 25 years, Elgin County has had an elder abuse network called Elder Abuse Elgin (EAE), which is made up of over 30 volunteers - community seniors and representatives from many different organizations who work with seniors. EAE meets quarterly, with the goal of mobilizing the community to address issues of Elder Abuse within Elgin through communication, advocacy, and case consultation, supported by funding initiatives. We receive no funding from any government body, and rely on donations and grants to carry on our awareness activities. One of our recent awareness strategies was the distribution of the attached materials across the entire Southwest Ontario area, in collaboration with the other Elder Abuse networks in the SW.



JOIN US

In recognition of WEAAD 2021, we are requesting that Municipalities across Elgin proclaim June 15th as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Please see the attached Proclamation, that we hope you will sign. In addition, you can support World Elder Abuse Awareness Day by wearing purple on June 15th.

We hope you will educate yourself about Elder Abuse; it is happening right here in Elgin County. 10% of Canadian seniors will experience abuse – often more than just one time. You can learn more about the risks and signs of elder abuse, and how each citizen can help, by checking out the Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario website www.eapon.ca Also, you can register [here](#) for the WEAAD national online event co-hosted by the Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario, and CanAge entitled: *'Aging with Rights: Ending Elder Abuse in Canada'*.

Thankyou for supporting these strategies from Elder Abuse Elgin. Together we can eliminate the abuse that older adults face in our community.

Regards,

Bonnie

Bonnie Rowe, Chair
Elder Abuse Elgin