



Dene National / Assembly of First Nations Office (NWT)

5125- 50th Street
P.O. Box 2338
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2P7
Website: www.denenation.ca

Phone: (867) 873-4081
Fax: (867) 920-2254
Toll Free: 1-866-511-4081



For Immediate Release
Wednesday, June 14, 2017

Prevalence of elder abuse gaining visibility world over, the north is no exception
Dene Nation encourages communities to take action against elder abuse

The numbers of older persons continue to grow all over the world, here in the north, in many instances, elder abuse is under-reported whether it is in the home or private place of residence. “We need to put more focus on the issue of elder abuse and ensure better care of our elders,” said Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus. “Indigenous people are three times more likely to experience incidences of abuse and neglect than non-Indigenous people. Our focus needs to be on the prevalence rates of maltreatment and violence that they suffer.”

Erasmus added that more emphasis has to be placed on elderly women who are usually the victims of violence and abuse. Indigenous persons, who are fifty-five years of age or older, as opposed to 65 years of age, is Canada’s guideline to determine an older person, or senior.

Erasmus said, “For Indigenous elderly women who suffer the abuse, these are very sad times and a lot of healing is required. These elders are of the perspective to care for their families and carry the future for the younger generations.”

Studies cite that there is general agreement on three types of abuse, which are categorized as: domestic elder abuse; institutional abuse; and, self-neglect or self-abuse. The three groupings affects, not just the families, but the entire community. “Physical, emotional and financial forms too are on top of the list, it’s not always physical. It is alarming and we need a way to stop the manipulating and exploitation of our elderly persons and help them seek out help.” Erasmus was making reference to today being 2017 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. “We look upon this day to highlight elder abuse which encompasses denial of access to funds, theft, forgery, living arrangements, and the like.”

The Dene Nation encourages communities to explore effective means to take a stance against family and elder abuse and violence, to strengthen protection for the elders and identify the severity of any form of exploitation. “Our communities can help to stress the urgent need to take action and raise more public awareness on the matter. We need to develop specific resources and measures to address the needs of our ageing society, simple as that,” concluded Erasmus.

-30-

For more information, contact:

Phil Mercredi
Dene Nation
Tel: (867) 873=4081
Email: pmercredi@denenation.com

“Upholding and Protecting the Rights and Interests of the Dene Nation”