

Caring Together: Enhancing CCR Models for Older Adults Living with Dementia and Experiencing Harm

Presenters:

April Tucker- Indigenous Resource Liaison-South (A.E.A.A.C)

Meaghan Westlund-Team Leader Outreach Services (Unison)



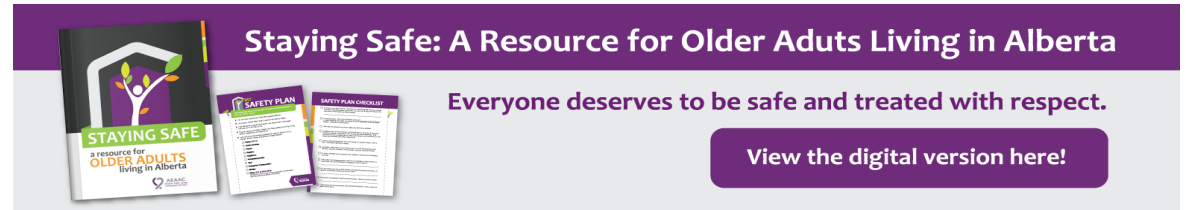
20TH Anniversary

- AEAAC Our Story- 20 years in 2022
- The AEAAC was first formed in 2002, since that time we have undergone a name change, developed a new logo, developed resources, hosted several learning events, and became a non-profit society. What has never changed in that time is our dedication to raising awareness and addressing elder abuse.
- Our Vision: Alberta's older adults are valued and live free from abuse.
- Our Mission: We are a council of Albertans dedicated to increasing awareness and supporting community responses to elder abuse.
- We provide training (such as Taking Action Against Elder Abuse and It's Not Right: Neighbours, Friends and Family for Older Adults)
- We are a part of the Elder Abuse Group on CORE Alberta
- Create a World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Toolkit each year
- *Recovery Oriented Systems of Care Elder Abuse Navigator Funding* - The AEAAC oversees the funding and the community of practice with case managers across the province in 13 Alberta communities.



What the Alberta Elder Abuse Council does

- We have a staying safe handbook



- It's Not Right – Neighbors Friends and Families for Older Adults is designed to educate and engage bystanders everywhere.
- Taking Action Against Elder Abuse (TAAEA) to educate service providers
4R Model; Recognize, Respond, Refer and Re-connect
- **WEAAD- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day June 15- every year**
- **Website** www.albertaelderabuse.ca

Unison Alberta Elder Abuse Shelter

- ▶ Calgary has an Elder Abuse Shelter supporting older adults 55+ actively fleeing abuse
- ▶ While in Shelter, clients have access to a personal case worker who help navigate housing, income support, referrals and anything they may need to support them when they enter the community.
- ▶ Outreach Services are provided when the client leaves the shelter for 1 year post discharge- these services can include access to mental health supports, referrals for furniture and household goods along with access to nutrition.
- ▶ Outreach Services also work within the community to raise awareness about elder abuse and work with agencies to see where support is needed.
- ▶ Coordinated Community Response- CCR Calgary Elder Abuse Awareness Collective (CEAAC)- Who is on the CCR? What do we do?

Why This Conversation Matters

- Violence against older adults is rising, particularly in forms that are hidden. Such as financial abuse, neglect, emotional manipulation, and coercive control.
- Older adults living with dementia or cognitive impairment are at greater risk due to memory loss, communication challenges, and dependency on others.
- This is a call to action and we must build safer, more respectful, and inclusive systems that recognize the dignity, rights, and lived experiences of aging individuals.

What is a Coordinated Community Response (CCR)

- CCR brings together key partners and organizations to collaboratively address complex issues within the community.
- It ensures a consistent, coordinated approach where different sectors work together to provide comprehensive support, services, and interventions.
- Strong community connections help build trust and improve how we share information and respond to the unique needs of individuals.

Key Purposes of a CCR

- Prevention- *Education, awareness, protection*
- Response- *Timely, coordinated care*
- Collaboration- *Shared, cross-sector teamwork*
- Support- *Holistic, heart-led services*
- Accountability- *Reconciliation, responsibility, change*
- Systemic Improvement- *Pathways, advocacy, inclusion*
- Community Safety- *Relational, emotional, physical*

How CCRs Support Case Managers

- A well supported CCR streamlines communication, improves access to resources, and reduces service gaps.
- This allows Case Managers to better navigate complex situations and ensures that individuals and families receive the most appropriate and timely support.
- Communities benefit from having a clear, shared vision of their CCR to ensure it's effective and grounded in local realities.

Indigenous HUBS(CCRs)

- In Indigenous communities, HUBS reflects the strength of coming together as a whole.
- Families and Nations serve as central hubs of care. Responses to elder abuse support the elder, the family, and often the person causing harm.
- Mistreatment is understood in the context of deeper issues like intergenerational trauma. The HUBS are culturally grounded and focus on healing, balance, and accountability.

Community in Indigenous HUBS

- HUBS/CCR teams partner with families, leadership, service providers, and cultural supports to prevent and respond to elder abuse.
- They connect health, justice, social support, and traditional practices to create a 'circle of care' that includes the whole community.
- This ensures safety for Elders, support for families, and healing opportunities for those who have caused harm.

Why CCRs are needed in later life

- Older adults face complex forms of abuse: physical, financial, neglect, or coercive control.
- Dementia can obscure disclosure or be misread as confusion.
- When services don't work together, older adults get left behind.

Dementia & CCRs: What Changes?

- Abuse indicators can be missed or misunderstood in dementia.
- CCRs support shared safety planning and community care.
- Capacity assessments, elder mediation, health & legal navigation.
- Services must be slow-paced, relational, trauma and dementia informed.

What professionals need to know

- Barriers Rooted in Ageism and Ableism
- Ensure autonomy: "just because someone forgets does not mean they forfeit their rights."
- Importance of caregiver support is to prevent burnout driven abuse.
- Ensure cultural relevancy and consent in communication.

Case Study

Jane is a 72-year-old Indigenous woman staying in an urban shelter. Over time, staff notice signs of cognitive decline. She begins misplacing items, becomes confused, and disoriented on walks. Jane reveals her adult son has been pressuring her for money and misusing her trust. With her consent, the shelter activates a Coordinated Community Response (CCR), involving the Dementia Society, elder abuse specialists, legal supports, and cultural navigators. Together, they create a care plan that prioritizes safety, connection, and dignity while also offering support to her son.

Final Reflections

- CCRs succeed when relationships lead the way.
- Acknowledge the importance of listening with empathy, responding with genuine kindness, collaborating with humility, and recognizing that memory loss does not diminish a person's dignity.

Questions and Discussion

Resources

Dementia and Elder Abuse Supports- Alberta, BC and Ontario

Alberta

Alzheimer Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories: <https://alzheimer.ab.ca>

Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Council (AEAAC): <https://aeaac.ca>

Alberta Health Services – Senior Abuse Help: <https://myhealth.alberta.ca>

British Columbia

Alzheimer Society of B.C.: <https://alzheimer.ca/bc>

Seniors First BC (Legal and Advocacy Help): <https://seniorsfirstbc.ca>

BC Association of Community Response Networks (BCCRN): <https://bccrns.ca>

Ontario

Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario: <https://eapon.ca>

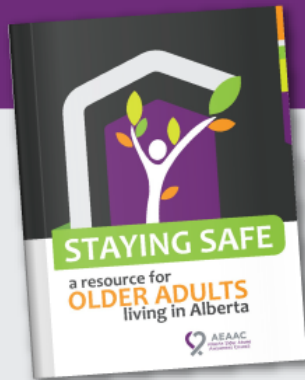
Alzheimer Society of Ontario: <https://alzheimer.ca/on>

Resources

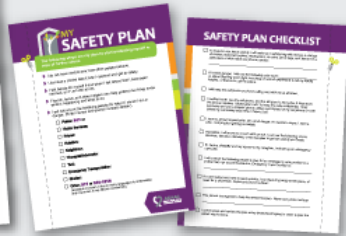
Indigenous & 2SLGBTQ+ Focused Supports (Across Provinces)

- **Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC)** – <https://www.nwac.ca>
Offers national programming and advocacy for Indigenous women and gender-diverse people.
- **Indigenous Women's Shelter Organizations** (e.g. Sagesse Domestic Violence Prevention Society – <https://sagesse.org>, ONWA, UNYA programs)
- **2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations (Ontario)** – <https://2spirits.org>
- **Egale Canada** – <https://egale.ca>
Advocacy and support for LGBTQI2S+ communities across Canada.

Staying Safe: A Resource for Older Adults Living in Alberta



Staying Safe: A Resource for Older Adults Living in Alberta



Everyone deserves to be safe and treated with respect.

[View the digital version here!](https://albertaelderabuse.ca/resources/staying-safe-a-resource-for-older-adults-living-in-alberta)

► <https://albertaelderabuse.ca/resources/staying-safe-a-resource-for-older-adults-living-in-alberta>

www.albertaelderabuse.ca