

Abuse & Neglect of Vulnerable Adults on Prince Edward Island

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Introduction

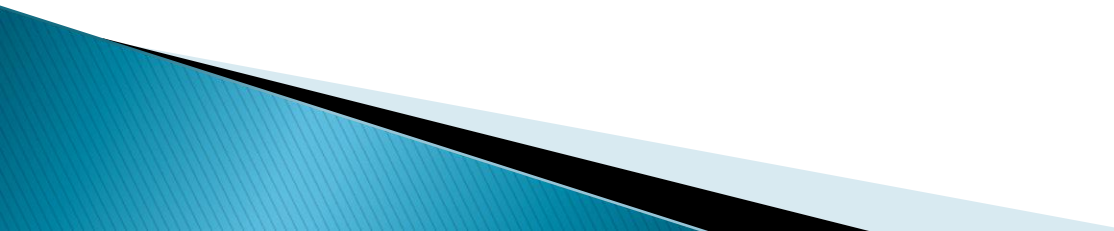
Every person – every man, woman and child – deserves to be treated with respect and caring.

Every person – no matter how young or how old – deserves to be safe from harm by those who live with them, care for them, or come into day-to-day contact with them.

American Psychological Association Elder Abuse and Neglect: In Search of Solutions (1999).



Anyone can become vulnerable to abuse – it affects all socio-economic and cultural groups, in rural and urban settings, and can occur in institutions as well as in private Homes

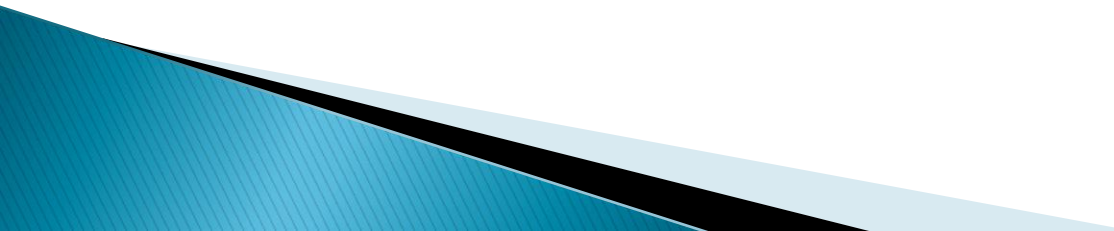


Unlike the abused child who is spotted in the school system, the elderly person is more easily isolated and hidden from public view

(Elder Abuse & Neglect 1991).



No matter what the degree of a person's mental capacity, helpers of abused or neglected adults should respect their dignity and not disregard their capacity to make choices and their right to control their lives.

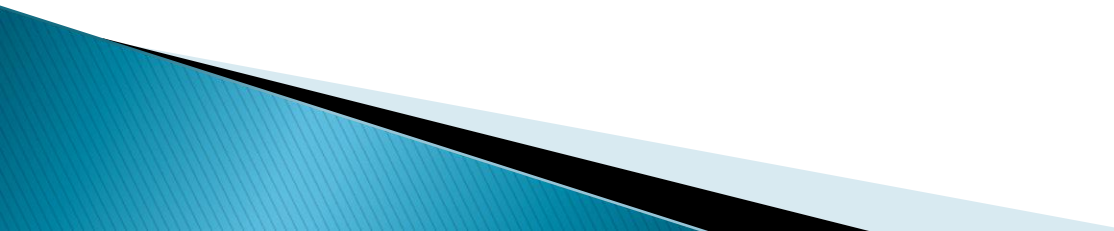


Age alone does not render a person vulnerable...above all, let us not treat venerable as synonymous with vulnerable, lest we create a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Kane 1990



Definitive data on the abuse of older adults is limited but various studies indicate that between 7 – 10% of older adult in Canada experience one or more forms of abuse or neglect.

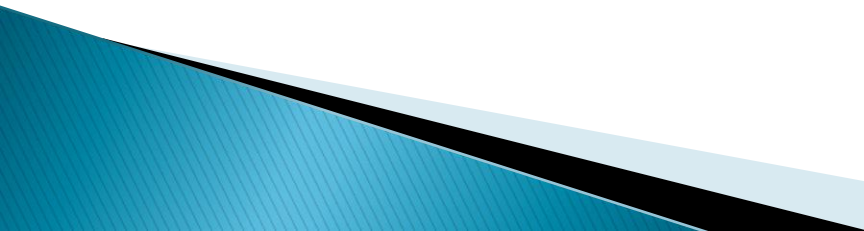
- It is even higher for those with cognitive impairments, physical disabilities, socially isolated.
 - Fewer than one in five above situations involving older adults ever comes to the attention of authorities.
 - Substance abuse or mental health issues are frequently identified as factors in abuse situations occurring in up to one third of cases
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**“If I’d known I was gonna live
this long, I’d have taken
better care of myself”**

Eubie Blake (age 100)

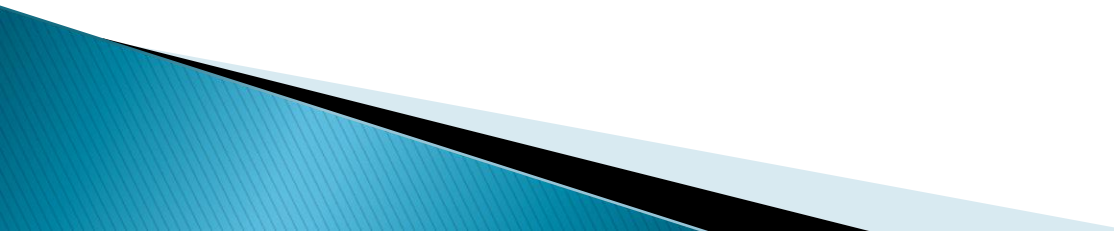


Canada Census 2011

- ▶ 5 Million Canadians are over the age of 65
 - ▶ 5,825 Canadians are 100 years and older
 - ▶ 84% of these are women
 - ▶ There are 35 Islanders age 100 or older
 - ▶ Atlantic Canada has the oldest population in Canada
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The Adult Protection Act (1988) protects vulnerable adults who are unable to protect themselves from abuse and neglect.

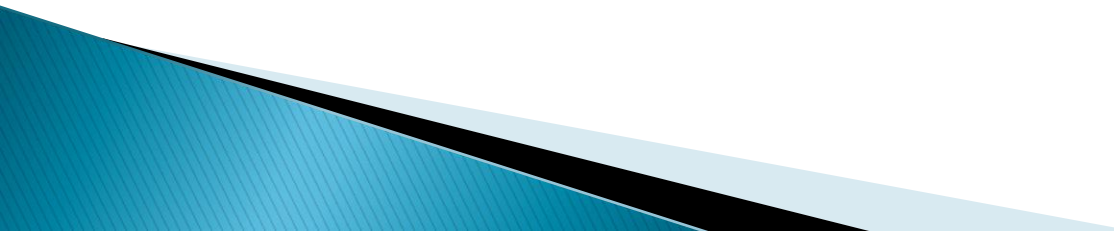
Vulnerability can include:

- ▶ **Head Injury**
 - ▶ **Intellectual and/ or physical disability**
 - ▶ **Cognitive impairment**
 - ▶ **Dementia**
 - ▶ **Alzheimer's**
- 



- AP Workers are designated by the Minister of Health and Wellness
- 7 designated workers across PEI
- Cases are often very complex

Adult Protection Act Highlights

- ▶ Intent of the Act is to provide assistance or intervention to protect an adult who is unable to protect him/herself.
 - ▶ Guiding principles of self-determination, least intrusive intervention, right to refuse assistance; assistance must be in best interest of the person.
 - ▶ Voluntary reporting – adults have the right to live at risk.
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- ▶ Assessment of situation done involving all parties to the fullest practical extent.
- ▶ Develop a plan with the person, if capable.
- ▶ Provide assistance to eliminate/reduce risk factors; majority of cases at this level.
- ▶ Rare cases go to court for a protection intervention order.
- ▶ Court may order:
 - *assistance be provided
 - *removal of person from harm
 - *restraining order
 - *health care
 - *supervision

continued

- ▶ Emergency intervention in extreme cases.
- ▶ Confidentiality
- ▶ Liability Protection

Our AP Legislation is very broad on PEI

7.(1) Any person involved, including a person having supervisory responsibility, shall cooperate with an assessment under section 6.

6.(2) An assessment pursuant to subsection (1) shall be a comprehensive investigation of the person's condition, circumstances and needs, including health, social, residential, economic, vocational, educational, and other conditions, related to the person's functional abilities to cope with the circumstances, to make reasonable judgments and to provide or make arrangements for his security and the meeting of his needs.

**Adult Protection Services In
2011 there were 128 Referrals**

**69% of these referrals were over
the age of 65**

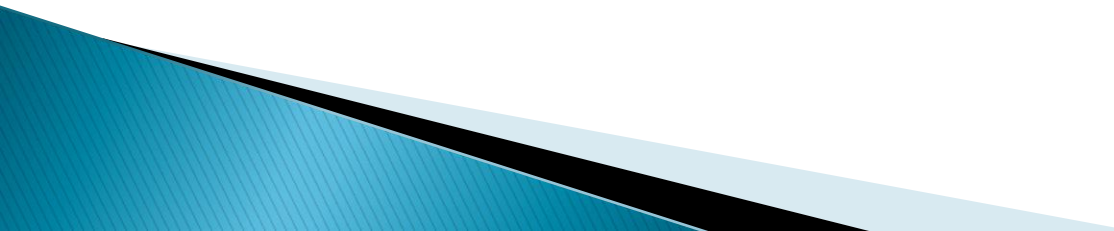
**Elder abuse and neglect is an
issue on PEI**



Summary of Statistics for 2011

1. Primary reason for referral in 45% of cases was for self-neglect and, of these, 50% were males and 50% were females.
2. Emotional/Verbal abuse made up 17% of referrals and, of these, 55% were males.
3. Financial abuse was the reason for referral in 15% of cases and 53% of the time the victims were female.
4. Caregiver neglect made up 13% of referrals and, of these, 53% were females.
5. Physical abuse made up 7% of referrals and 78% were female.
6. Sexual Abuse comprised 3% of referrals and 67% of the victims were female.

Self	3
Relative	38
Friend/ Neighbor	18
Doctor	10
Child & Family Services	1
Income Support	2
Home Care	7
Police RCMP	8
Hospital	3
CCF/NH	16
Bank	1
Housing Authority	3
Anonymous	6
Provincial Geriatric Program	4
Landlord	1
Other (please specify)	6
Post Office	
Community Connections 2	
Store Owner	
AP Consultant	
Council for Persons with Disabilities	

- ▶ 9% or 14 referrals to Adult Protection in 2011 came from doctors.
 - ▶ In 2010 Adult Protection received 1 referral from a doctor.
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Who are the Abusers?

Spouse	15
Child	14
Friend/ Neighbor	8
Sibling	7
Paid Caregivers	5
Parent	2
Other Relative	2
Staff in Private Nursing Homes	
Staff in Public Nursing Homes	
Staff in Group Homes	
Staff in Hospitals	

Number of referrals involving staff of :

Hospital 1


Group Home 1

Public Nursing Home 5

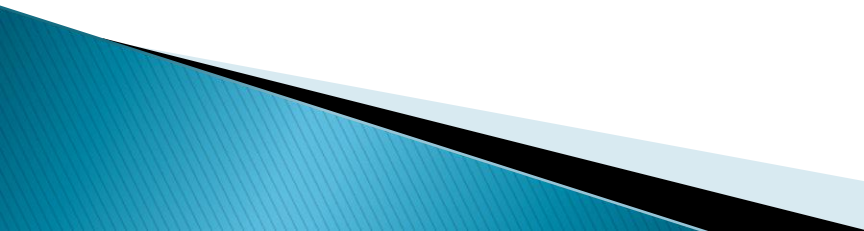
Private Nursing Home 6

Community Care Facility 1

Essential AP Partners

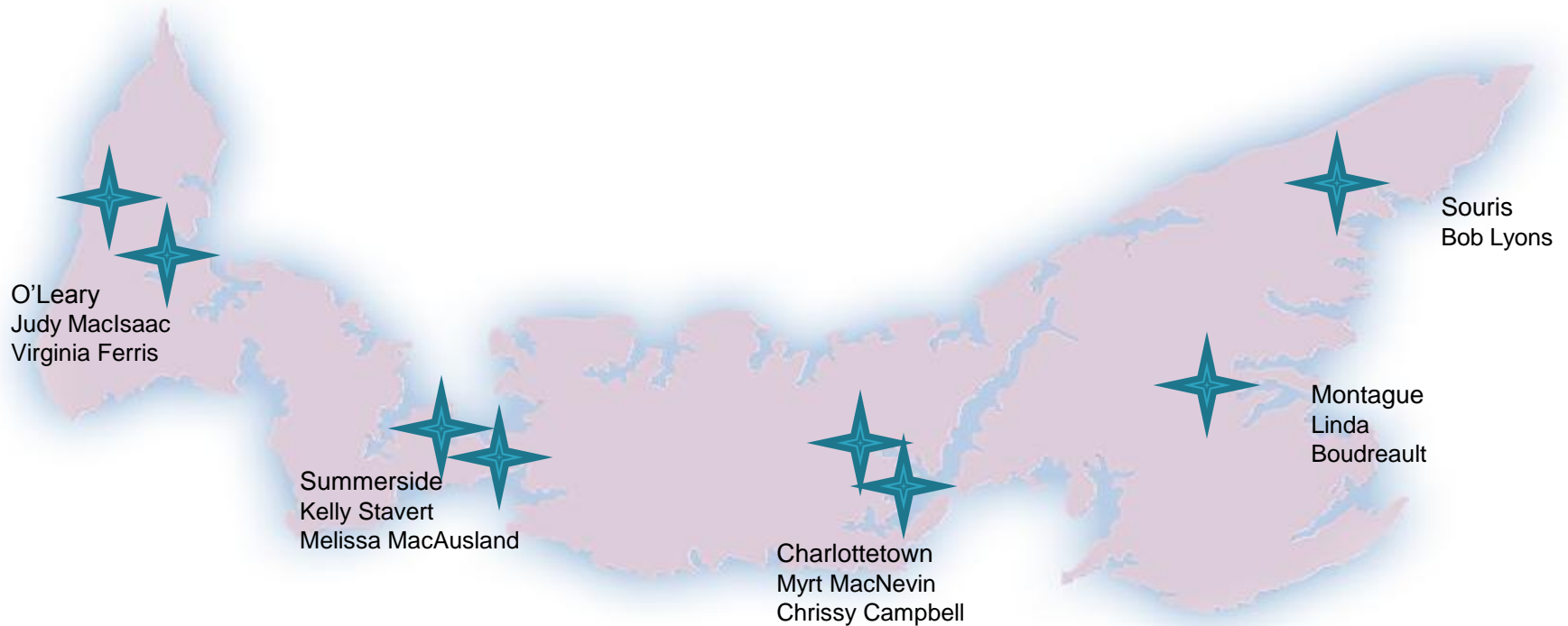
- ▶ AP Legal Counsel
 - ▶ Geriatrician Program (2 doctors and an RN)
 - ▶ RCMP/ City Police
 - ▶ Family Doctors
 - ▶ PUBLIC TRUSTEE/ PUBLIC GUARDIAN OFFICE (Public Trustee/ Guardian, Deputy PT, Deputy PG 3FT staff)
 - ▶ Hospitals (acute & psychiatric) are our place of safety for vulnerable adults
 - ▶ Respite beds in LTC when vulnerable adults can no longer live safely in the community
 - ▶ Department of Justice/ Correctional Centers
 - ▶ Mental Health & Addiction Services
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God gave us two ears but only one mouth. Some people say that's because he wanted us to spend twice as much time listening as talking. Others claim it's because he knew listening was twice as hard as talking



79 year old Alice is brought to the doctors office by her son, with whom she lives. She has a history of severe osteoporosis with several compression fractures of the spine that requires long-term pain control. Alice also has moderate dementia and found it difficult to answer the doctors questions today. As well her son spoke for her and would interrupt her before she could answer. When asked to leave the room so that the patient can be examined, he refused, saying she would be afraid if he left her alone. Alice's appearance is unkempt. In the course of discussing Alice's care, the doctor offers help in the form of Home Care Services, but the son refuses. The doctor suspects that an abusive situation exists, but is unsure how to proceed.

Adult Protection Services on Prince Edward Island



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Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look at what they can do when they stick together.

Vista Kelly

