

What is Elder Abuse?

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Elder Abuse is defined as:

“A single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person.”

Abuse can occur in any relationship, including healthy ones.

Elder abuse is not just physical abuse. Other forms of abuse include psychological, financial, sexual and neglect. Approximately 8% – 10% of seniors experience some form of elder abuse each year in Canada.

The Age Friendly Thunder Bay Elder Abuse Prevention Committee has been established to work on issues related to elder abuse in our community.

The Committee meets monthly at the 55 Plus Centre on River Street from 1:30 pm to 3 pm the third Wednesday of the month. Meetings are open to the public.

Several sub-committees have been established to work on various projects, initiatives, and objectives: Advocacy, the June Elder Abuse Walk, Education, Lived Experience and Marketing/Communications. Additional sub-committees can be established should the need arise.

Committee members provide elder abuse educational forums, workshops and presentations to community groups and organizations upon request.

Contact Info

If you have an elder abuse situation you are personally involved in or know of an incident, you wish to report:

Thunder Bay Police Service 807-684-1200

Thunder Bay Crime Stoppers 807-623-8477

Ontario Provincial Police, Northwest Region Headquarters 1 888 310 1122

211 Ontario North 211



ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

NAME

The Committee shall be known as the Age Friendly Thunder Bay Elder Abuse Prevention Committee.

COMMITTEE VISION STATEMENT

To raise awareness of crimes against older adults.

COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

To promote community and agencies participation in a larger network designed to increase awareness and knowledge about prevention, intervention, advocacy, investigations and resolutions into elder abuse.

OBJECTIVES

- To advocate for the rights of older adults in our community and region. To be an impartial voice related to the protection of, and the prevention of abuse against older adults.
- To be a professional resource for membership to inform, educate and improve awareness of the abuse of older adults.
- To provide a means for the members to focus on addressing issues related to older adults and to connect with other agencies, community partners and other older adults across Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario.

MEMBERSHIP and RESPONSIBILITY

Open to any individual and/or organization interested in working towards attaining the goals of the Elder Abuse Prevention Committee.

Members in good standing will be expected to attend all meetings. If a member is not able to attend a meeting, the member shall send their regrets to the Chair. If a member missed three consecutive meetings, membership will be reviewed.

CONFIDENTIALITY/CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Age Friendly Thunder Bay confidentiality and conflict of interest policies will be followed.

FREQUENCY/DURATION OF MEETINGS

Dates, times and venues will be reviewed annually. Meetings are generally held monthly except for July and August. Additional meetings can be called at the discretion of the Committee Chair.

GOVERNANCE

The Committee membership will oversee the implementation of the objectives of the Committee. The meeting minutes, once confirmed, will be the official records of the Committee.

Each member of the Committee is entitled to one vote.

Consensus will be sought on all matters. Should a vote be required, a tie vote will be considered lost.

The Age Friendly Thunder Bay Policy Document will serve as the authority for the Elder Abuse Prevention Committee.

REPORTING

Regular updates and recommendations will be provided to the Age Friendly Thunder Bay Board of Directors on any/all activities/projects/events undertaken by the Elder Abuse Prevention Committee.

QUORUM

A quorum will consist of seven Committee members in attendance to conduct business at a meeting.

MINUTES and AGENDA

The Chair will set the agenda in ongoing consultation with other Committee members. The agenda and minutes will be distributed one week prior to the meeting.

The Recorder is responsible to record the minutes and distribute to the membership.

ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

- Facilitates all meetings

- Represents and speaks on behalf of the Committee, i.e. public interviews, etc.
- Prepares agendas with input from Committee members
- Fosters open communication and participation
- Initiates new policy and changes to current policy in consultation with members
- Works with other sub-committees as they are formed
- Prepares and submits reports as required to the membership
- Reports to the Age Friendly Board of Directors as required/requested
- Provides an annual budget to the Age Friendly Board of Directors
- Provides a monthly financial report to the Age Friendly Treasurer
- Receives the monthly financial report from the Age Friendly Treasurer and provides to the Committee membership
- Participates on sub-committees as appropriate and encourages membership participation in committee activities
- Oversees, leads, implements and updates the Annual Strategic Plan

ROLE OF THE VICE-CHAIR

- Serves in the absence of the Chair
- Other duties as established.

ROLE OF THE RECORDER

- Records the minutes for the meetings noting date/time/location and those in attendance
- Distributes minutes to the Committee members
- Keep files and serve as the custodian of all past meetings
- Maintain membership contact list
- Distribute agenda package including any/all pertinent reports prior to a membership meeting
- Maintains the annual Strategic Action Plan
- Collaborates with the Chair

SUBCOMMITTEES

To be established on an ad-hoc basis.

Subcommittees will elect a representative that will report on their activities at the Steering Committee monthly meetings.

Subcommittees will establish their own terms of reference including objectives and timelines.

FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Age Friendly Thunder Bay Elder Abuse Prevention Committee will have their own reserve fund established within the Age Friendly Thunder Bay accounting system. Monthly expenditures and revenues will be reported to the Age Friendly Treasurer. A monthly report will be provided from the Age Friendly Treasurer to the Committee. The Committee will provide an annual budget to the Age Friendly Board of Directors identifying the financial priorities for the upcoming year in June of any given year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Committee shall annually elect a Chair, Vice-Chair and Recorder at their September meeting. A term of office of two years will be provided for each office. A renewal of an additional two-year term is available to the incumbent upon agreement of the Committee. It is recommended that the Chair and Vice-Chair terms be staggered to accommodate succession.

SPOKESPEOPLE

The Chair will serve as the spokesperson on behalf of the Committee for any/all media interviews,

TERMS OF REFERENCE REVIEW

The Terms of Reference shall be reviewed annually in September.

Age Friendly Elder Abuse Prevention Committee – approved December 21, 2022
Age Friendly Board of Directors – approved January 10, 2023

ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

2024 STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

To raise awareness of Crimes against older adults.

To promote community and agencies participation in a larger network designed to increase awareness and knowledge about prevention, intervention, advocacy, investigations, and resolutions into elder abuse.

Updated March 2, 2024

| PRIORITY | STRATEGIES | SPECIFIC ACTIONS | RESPONSIBILITIES | INDICATORS/OUTCOMES |
|----------|--|---|---|---|
| Advocacy | Advocacy Sub-Committee | Hold regular meetings. Implement specific actions | Rebecca Johnson Debra Maki George Saarinen Saara Vuorela Joan Duke – to attend events | Sub-Committee established August 2022 Terms of Reference approved by Steering Committee September 2022 |
| | Advocate on Issues related to elder abuse and ageism. Education | Identify issues that need to be advocated | | Social Worker to accompany police officers to people needing extra services. |
| | | | Kevin Holland, MPP Set up meeting | Fixing Long Term Care Act 2017 - investigators in NWO to address critical incidents in LTC. |
| | | Complete workshops Write Report | | Two workshops still to be held – FWFN, 55 Plus Centre. Report being drafted |
| | | Presentations of report with recommendations resulting from workshops | | Police Services, City Council, TBDSSAB |

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| | | Promote advocacy work being done | | Rogers Age Friendly TV Program |
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| Communication and Marketing | Communications & Marketing Sub-Committee | Communications & Marketing Sub-Committee To meet as required | Joan Duke Lorne Silver Pauline Vranesich | |
| | | Spokespeople for Elder Abuse Prevention Committee | David Moscall Rebecca Johnson | Noted in Committee Terms of Reference |
| | | Swag | | Order as required – Pens, magnifying cards, glass cleaner, purple bags from EAPO available |
| | | Little Black Book of Scams | David Moscall | David Moscall had 200 copies printed to use as required. Additional 400 copies printed. |
| | | Social media | | Look at opening a Facebook page; Instagram account, etc. |
| | | Website | | Increase presence on Age Friendly website - elder abuse page - in progress. Elder Abuse Handbook posted on Age Friendly and Thunder Bay Police Services websites. |
| | | Promote Committee work. | | Rogers Age Friendly TV Program Roots to Harvest |
| | | Promote Committee's work. | Chronicle Journal; Age Friendly newsletter, Trade Shows, senior homes, senior apartments, Health & Wellness Fair, Age Friendly Shaw TV Program, Age Friendly membership | .. Participated with exhibit at 55 Plus Centre OACAO Conference, October 14, 2023 .. Attended with exhibit and presentation at Geraldton Senior Active Living Fair on October 18, 2023 .. Participated with Age Friendly at the Chartwell Open House – November 4, 2023 .. Participate at 55 Plus Centre Health Expo – March 23, 2024 |
| | | Participate in EAPO | Attend monthly Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario meetings Participate in provincial/national educational webinars | Rebecca Johnson participates in provincial meetings reporting on Thunder Bay activities Promote and inform membership of webinars, newsletter, etc. |

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| Education | Education Sub-Committee | Hold regular hybrid meetings (in person and virtual) Implement goals and objectives | Carole Camire Joan Duke Kristine Jardine Gloria McKay Kevin Middleton David Moscall Julie Peters Morgan Carleton-Shubat Pauline Vranesich Danielle Wood | |
| | | Host Educational Seminars | | .. Develop list of presentations made - where, when, numbers attending, etc. – evaluation of seminars at time of seminar or Survey Monkey – Kristine Jardine, Coordinates .. Distribute or have available swag. .. Give presentations to organizations who request a speaker |
| | | Train the Trainer | | Training with EAPO - two members undertook training in September |
| | | Develop Educational Materials – a Library | EAPO | Three slide presentations – scams, financial abuse Localize EAPO slide deck - complete |
| | | Order Clothing for Presenters | | |
| | | Order Name Tags for Committee Members | | |
| | | Develop Speaker's List | | <i>Speakers:</i> <i>David Boer</i> <i>Joan Duke</i> <i>Kristine Jardine</i> <i>Rebecca Johnson</i> <i>Gloria McKay</i> <i>Julie Peters</i> <i>Morgan Carleton-Shubat</i> <i>Lorne Silver</i> <i>Pauline Vranesich</i> |
| | | Evaluation | | Develop evaluation tool for presentations. – complete – copies available |
| | | Launch Safety Handbook Distribute | Work with TB Police Services | October 18 – 55 Plus Centre – complete |

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| | | Distribute Safety Handbook | | Keep list of groups/organizations/businesses, etc. that the handbook is provided to. |
| | | Safety Handbook Infographic | | Develop to distribute – place in public locations |
| | | Outreach to Senior Homes | Work with staff to develop protocol, visiting times and topics | Develop list of homes, apartment. Visit regularly. |
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| Elder Abuse Prevention Committee | History | Organized under the umbrella of Age Friendly Thunder Bay | Committee Membership | Age Friendly confirmed - May 10, 2022. Committee met for first time – June 21, 2022 |
| | Terms of Reference | Review Terms of Reference for the Committee annually | | Friendly Board of Directors approved – January 2023; Committee Review – November 2023 |
| | Action Plan | Develop an Action Plan for the Committee’s activities | | Approved September 20, 2022 Amended March 15, 2023 Amended November 15, 2023 |
| | Implementation Plan | Develop an Implementation Plan for operations of Committee activities, etc. | | Updated action plan – November 2023 and updated/reported to EAPTB March 2024 |
| | Monthly Meetings | Hold regular hybrid meetings (in person and virtual) | | 2024 meeting list approved -November 2023 Board meeting |
| | Membership | Examine Committee membership for additional members | | Updated member committee assignment list. Target specific representatives who should be represented on committee. |
| | EAPO | Sit at Provincial Chair Committee | Rebecca Johnson | Attend monthly Chair meetings and report back to the EAPTB Committee |
| | Elect Committee Officers | Co-Chair Recorder | Co-Chair: Rebecca Johnson Co-Chair David Moscall Recorder: Deanna Bessel | September 2023 |
| | Community Organizations | Sit at various community organization tables representing Elder Abuse | Pauline Vranesich | Report to Age Friendly Board of Directors monthly meetings and to AF quarterly meetings. |
| | Finance | Regular reports from Age Friendly | Donna Nagy, AF Treasurer | Elder Abuse Reserve Fund established. Ongoing reports at meetings |
| | 2024 Budget | Develop and submit to Age Friendly for approval | | Forwarded in October to Age Friendly Board of Directors. |
| | Donation | To Chartwell for hosting meetings | | |

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| Lived Experience | Lived Experience Sub-Committee | Hold meetings and develop a plan of action for 2024 | Heather Affleck | |
| | Involve individuals with lived elder abuse experience | Develop a support group for senior victims of crime – repeat victims of fraud | | |
| | Elder Abuse Hot line | Develop a dedicated Hot Line | | Require funding; trained person to respond to calls; follow up after calls |
| | Court Watch | Assist victims going through court to ensure proper representation in court | | |
| | Restorative Justice | Examine role of the program within the local environment | | |
| World Elder Abuse Awareness Day June 15 | June 15 Walk/BBQ Sub-Committee | Meet as required to organize activities to celebrate the day. | Deanna Bessel Corinne Graham (55 Plus) Rebecca Johnson Twyla Biluk (55 Plus) Debra Maki | |
| | Activities | Flag Raising | City Hall Invite Mayor and City Council | Coordinate with City Hall June 14, 2024 |
| | | Elder Abuse Awareness Walk | Work with 55 Plus Centre staff | The International Network launched the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) on June 15, 2006, through the United Nations. |
| | | Promote colour purple | | Symbolizes the growing problem of elder abuse around the world |

AGE FRIENDLY THUNDER BAY

ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS – 2024

Updated as of February 22, 2024

| MEMBER | ORGANIZATION |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Heather Affleck | Community Member |
| Deanna Bessel <i>Recorder</i> | St. Joseph Care Group Supportive Housing |
| Maria Bilyk | Past CEAPC member |
| David Boer | Thunder Bay Police |
| Joan Braun | Bora Laskin Faculty of Law (Lakehead University) |
| Tina Camarotto | Faye Petersen |
| Carol Camire | Social Worker, Partners in Rehab |
| Nancy Clapp | Home and Community Care |
| Joan Duke | 55 Plus Centre Board Director |
| Irena Elms | Past CEAPC member |
| Pam Gerrie | Alzheimer's Society Thunder Bay |
| Kristine Jardine | Community Member |
| Rebecca Johnson <i>Co-Chair</i> | Past Chair, Age Friendly Thunder Bay |
| Brittany Kirkwood | Coordinator & Analyst - Community Paramedicine Program |
| Debra Maki | Community Member |

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| Gloria McKay | Past CEAPC member |
| Judi Marton | Public Health Nurse, Injury and Substance Misuse Prevention, Thunder Bay District Health Unit |
| Kevin Middleton | Crimes Against Seniors, Thunder Bay Police |
| Dan Mitchell | Community Member |
| Randy Moore | Chair, Age Friendly Thunder Bay |
| David Moscall <i>Co-Chair</i> | OPP |
| Donna Nagy | Treasurer, Age Friendly Thunder Bay |
| Brittany O'Dwyer | Alzheimer's Society Thunder Bay |
| Julie Peters | Victim Witness Assistance Program |
| Penny Radford | Executive Director, Thunder Bay and Area Victim Services |
| George Saarinen | Trustee, Lakehead Public Schools |
| Morgan Carleton-Shubat | Victim Witness Assistance Program |
| Lorne Silver | Community Member |
| Jules Tupker | Past CEAPC member |
| Pauline Vranesich | Age Friendly Board Director/ Past CEAPC member |
| Saara Vuorela | Lutheran Care |
| Danielle Wood | Assistant Crown Attorney |

Age Friendly Thunder Bay Safety Handbook:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/65021c7bbb96952f7970c0f5/t/6578c80680c8f366e849dc9d/1702414342360/Elder%2BAbuse%2BBooklet%2BFinal%2Bwith%2Bfront%2Band%2Bback%2Bcover.pdf>