

About 1 in 4 Calgarians know an older adult who has experienced some form of physical, emotional or financial abuse.<sup>1</sup> As our population booms so too do the number of older adults who need help. In 2001, people aged 65 or over made up 9% of Calgary's population; by 2016 older adults are projected to increase to 14% of our population.<sup>2</sup>

We need to address the issue of elder abuse now.

Currently, local organizations who work with older adults are developing a cutting edge coordinated community response to the abuse of older adults—*Pulling Back the Curtain*. This pilot project was conceptualized by the Action Group on Elder Abuse (AGEA), an initiative of the Alliance to End Violence.

AGEA is comprised of individuals and agencies concerned about the response to older persons experiencing abuse in Calgary. AGEA, along with health services, law enforcement, government officials, front-line workers, and social service agencies, will implement a one-stop shop model for older adults experiencing abuse.

AGEA supports increased partnerships and collaborations of community stakeholders in building the capacity within Calgary to respond to the abuse of older persons.

AGEA's work to date:

- Hosted three *Pulling Back the Curtain* workshops which engaged diverse community stakeholders in developing the community response to abuse of older adults
- Completed the draft model of Calgary's community response
- Organized two elder abuse conferences
- Developed and implemented a comprehensive education strategy and public awareness campaign on elder abuse
- Completed an Elder Abuse Protocol that serves as a model for Calgary-based organizations
- Developed an Elder Abuse Resource Manual
- Worked with the Calgary community to mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Days since June 15, 2006
- Mapped resources, identified gaps in services (an ongoing activity)
- Collected research and best practices literature (an ongoing activity)
- Submitted a brief to the Alberta Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying

**Resources:** [www.endviolence.ca/resources-older-adults/](http://www.endviolence.ca/resources-older-adults/)

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<sup>1</sup> Action Group on Elder Abuse survey (2008)

<sup>2</sup> Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile (2007)