



National First Nations ReAct Elder Abuse & Neglect

Diana Day and Ruth Kenny
Gathering Wisdom VI



Introductions

- Who you are?
- Where you come from, which First Nations community?
- What is it you are hoping to learn in this session?



ReAct – Act on Adult Abuse & Neglect

- Originally developed by **Vancouver Coastal Health** as a manual for staff in response to the Adult Guardianship Act (BC legislation)
- All resources are available on www.vchreact.ca to be downloaded



The **Adult Guardianship Act** gives Designated Agencies enhanced powers to **intervene** in emergencies and to **investigate** situations in which vulnerable adults are **living at risk**.



National First Nations ReAct Manual & Tools:

- The NFNR Manual and Tools were developed
 - to help individuals to respond to situations of abuse and neglect of older adults and vulnerable people.
 - in a shared agreement with FNIHB who distributed manuals and tools to all health centers





Intro Chief Robert Joseph

Video clip

http://www.vchreact.ca/national_manual.htm



Vancouver
Coastal Health
Promoting wellness. Restoring lives.



Facts

- Victims of childhood abuse are often abused later in life
- Aboriginal people are 3 times more likely to experience violence than non-Aboriginal people
- The incidence of abuse and neglect increase with age, disability and dependence



Types of Abuse of Older and Vulnerable Adults

- Physical
- Sexual
- Psychological Abuse
- Financial Abuse
- Neglect
- Self-Neglect



Definitions

- **Vulnerable Adult** – those 19 and over, who are physically and/or mentally disabled, frail elderly, previous victims of crime or those who are susceptible to harm
- **Designated Responder** – an employee of a Designated Agency who has the responsibility and training to inquire into reports under the Adult Guardianship



Definitions

Designated Agency - The 5 Regional Health Authorities and the Community Living Assoc. BC are responsible for receiving reports and inquiring into situations of abuse, neglect and self-neglect of adults, who are not able to seek support or assistance on their own.



Regional Health Authority Designated Responders

- **VIHA** – Matthew Scott
- **IHA** - Linda Myers
- **FHA** - Leanne Lange
- **NHA** - Louise Holland
- **VCH** -Amanda Brown



NFNR - Tools

Resources and Tools are available to customize for your community.

Available online at www.vchreact.ca

- Pamphlets
- First Nations Manual
- Brochures
- Flow Chart
- Videos with Native actors



VIDEO – With Love and Respect



Community Response Networks (CRN)

- Are a way of coordinating people from different agencies who are usually involved with preventing or responding to abused or neglected older adults and/or vulnerable people
- There is a BC CRN Society with chapters around the province



Guardianship Act (2000)

- **Emergency provisions** may be used even without an adult's agreement, when it is necessary to act *immediately* **in order to save the adult's life**, prevent serious physical/mental harm, **or** protect the adult's assets from loss or damage.



An **emergency intervention** must be **short term** and deal with the emergency situation only.

Emergency provisions may include:

- Gaining access
- Providing emergency health care
- Removing an adult from an unsafe environment
- Protecting assets by informing the PGT
- Protecting the adult from harm using any other measure necessary



Court Orders Including:

- Warrant to enter to conduct an interview
- Access order
- Interim restraining order
- Support and assistance order



What to do?

- Involve the adult as much as possible
- Determine if the adult is able to seek support/assistance on their own
- Involve others (police, PGT) when making the decision to use emergency provisions.
- Ensure the adult has support and assistance and is in a safe environment
- Refer to the designated responder in your area and community resources



Community Resources

- Community health Centre staff
- Community Resources Network Contacts
- Band Health clinic or Social Development Office
- Band council members
- Aboriginal Patient Navigator
- Victim services
- Public Guardian & Trustee
- Community workers, Social Workers, Elder's Workers, A&D, Family support
- Health staff/unit, Care Aides
- Police



Safety

- Safety of staff and the vulnerable adults are of paramount concern.
- All employees and managers should be aware of resources available and have safety procedures in place



Privacy and Confidentiality

- important issues, especially in small communities where vulnerable adults may be experiencing abuse from family members who have positions of power in the community,
- or the workers may have relationships with the people involved.
- Also important that the confidentiality of the person who reported the abuse be upheld



Working with the police and justice system

- When there is a police investigation or when a crime has been committed, there needs to be a good working relationship between the criminal justice system, care-givers, and health care providers so that the needs of the older vulnerable adult are not lost.



QUIZ



National First Nations
re:act



**recognize, report and act on
older adult abuse and neglect**

