



### What is Elder Abuse?

The Government of Alberta defines elderly abuse as “any action or inaction by self or others that jeopardizes the health or wellbeing of seniors” (Government of Alberta, 2012).

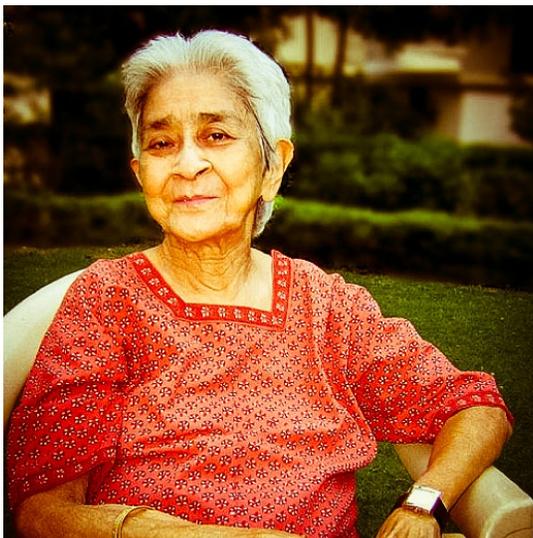
“Signs of elder abuse may include withdrawal, a changed living situation, a senior appearing to be in distress or talking about difficulties which seem to indicate mistreatment” (Power, 2012).

Credit: Petr Jan Juračka

Elderly abuse manifests itself in many forms including financial, emotional, physical, sexual and neglect. According to the government of Alberta, the most frequently reported forms of elderly abuse are emotional or financial in nature (Government of Alberta, 2012).

“Police reported that nearly 7,900 seniors were victims of violent crime in 2009. Of those reported crimes, 35 percent were committed by a family member, 35 percent were committed by a friend or acquaintance, and 29 percent were committed by a stranger” (Government of Canada, 2012).

Globally, elderly abuse is predicted to increase as many countries experience increasingly aging populations. According to the World Health Organization, the global population of individuals aged 60 and over is expected to more than double between 1995-2025 from 542 million to 1.2 billion (World Health Organization, 2011).



Credit: Rita Banerji



Credit: Adam Jones

### Elder Abuse in Alberta

"In Alberta, the number of seniors is projected to increase from approximately 398,000 in 2010 to over 1 million in 2036" (Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, N.D.).

Seniors 60 years of age or older who live in abusive situations may access the Seniors' Association of Greater Edmonton (SAGE) Safe House for a short term safe place to stay. The SAGE Safe House

offers furnished rooms and meals for up to 60 days as well as emotional support, information and community connections. Seniors in need may contact SAGE Safe House by telephone at (780) 702-1520 (Senior's Association of Greater Edmonton, 2006).

### What types of services are available to seniors in Edmonton that are facing abuse?

There are a variety of organizations in the Edmonton area that help seniors who are facing or are at risk of experiencing abuse:

#### *SAGE (Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton)*

SAGE provides the elderly with a variety of services to ensure that they have a high quality of life. They include the SAGE Safe House, which is a shelter for seniors who are seeking temporary refuge from an abusive environment, (SAGE, 2012)

#### *John Howard Society*

The John Howard Society Family Violence Prevention program offers information, referrals, emotional support, advocacy, safety planning, and victim assistance to anyone impacted by family violence, including seniors. Services are available in Cantonese, Mandarin, Punjabi, and Hindi (Edmonton John Howard Society, 2012).

#### *City of Edmonton*

The City of Edmonton Seniors Services and Programs offers counseling services with a professional social worker to help with concerns including abuse and violence. Financial, housing, and community resource referrals are also available through this program. For more information call 780-496-4777 (City of Edmonton, 2012).

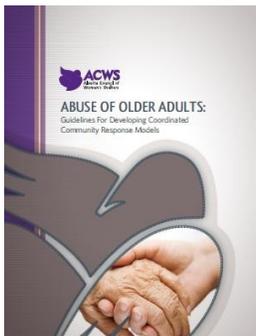
211 is an Edmonton directory of resources that is part of The Support Network. By dialing 2-1-1, seniors experiencing abuse can receive help in finding resources that specifically suit their current needs (The Support Network, nd.).

## Works Cited

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## Research Publications on Seniors in threeSOURCE

The Edmonton Social Planning Council's research database threeSOURCE contains publications on a variety of subjects related to the well-being of seniors in Alberta. Here are a few of those reports:



**Abuse of Older Adults.**  
Published by the  
Alberta Council of  
Social Workers. (2011)



**Old Age Insecurity?**  
Published by the  
Caledon Institute of  
Social Policy. (2012)



**Old Age Security:  
Can We Afford It?**  
Published by the  
Canadian Centre for  
Policy Alternatives.  
(2012)



**What do we know  
about immigrant  
seniors aging in  
Canada?** Published by  
CERIS. (2012)

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Contributing Volunteer Researchers: Kayla Atkey, Anna Kessler, and Carling Anderson



Tel: (780) 423-2031

[www.edmontonsocialplanning.ca](http://www.edmontonsocialplanning.ca)  
Suite 37, Commonwealth Building, 9912 - 106 Street

Fax: (780) 425-6244

Email: [info@edmontonsocialplanning.ca](mailto:info@edmontonsocialplanning.ca)