

Support Services for Elders can include any of the following:



- Advocacy
- Crisis Intervention
- Assistance with medical care
- Home Care Supports.
- Therapy
- Support groups
- transportation
- Other Services

### Services Available:

The trauma of abuse does not end when the abuse does. There are many specialists who are uniquely trained to assist the elderly and their families after the discovery of abuse. Some of the services that may be helpful include;

- Counseling or support groups to cope with the emotional trauma endured
- Ongoing medical assistance and mental health assessments
- Legal assistance
- Financial management assistance
- Home health care options
- Respite care for the caregivers

*The Squamish Nation Ayas Men Men Child and Family Services Department is here to help and assist elders and their families to end the abuse and aid in the healing process. If you are a victim please do not hesitate to call one of the following support services within our community.*

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### **Ayas Men Men Child and Family Services**

- North Vancouver (604) 985—4111
- Squamish Valley (604) 892—5975

### **Esemkwu Healing Center**

- (604) 904—1253

### **So-sah-latch Elders Program**

- (604) 985—7826

### **Squamish Nation Recreation Program Elders Coordinator**

- (604) 987—4646



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# Information on ELDER ABUSE



*"Peace to our Children"*

# ELDER ABUSE

## It's time to take a stand!

*What is Elder Abuse?*

### **Physical Abuse:**

Any intentional or negligent infliction of bodily injury causing physical pain, impairment or illness, such as striking or beating, force-feeding or deliberately over/under medicating.



**Sexual Abuse:** Non consensual physical contact with an elder when the person making the contact has the purpose of obtaining sexual gratification; consent is not voluntary if it is obtained by threat, coercion, intimidation, or fraud, or if the elder is not competent of consent.

**Emotional Abuse or Isolation:** Words or actions harmful to an elder's mental health (insults, threats or humiliation), or persistently ignoring or isolating him/her from their family and friends.

**Neglect:** Failing to provide for the basic needs of an elder by not supplying the resources, care or supervision required to provide for these basic needs; interfering with delivery of necessary resources and services; failing to report abuse of an elder;

failing to provide an elder with services or resources to aid in the elder's practice of religion, traditions or customs.

**Exploitation:** Improper or unauthorized use of an elder's funds, property, or other resources (i.e. changing an elder's will or using their debit/credit card without consent: a failure to use an elder's funds, property or resources as the elder wishes or for that person's benefit is exploitation.

**Other:** Elders are too often the targets of phone scams, sales fraud and other ventures that take advantage of their vulnerability and need to be protected from these devious ploys. Elders are constantly being asked to buy things from family members to support an addiction. Elders are asked to lend a community member money, asked to buy fish, berries, meat, all these are forms of abuse to the well being of an elder, our elders live on a fixed income and this is added stress in their lives as they feel obligated to buy the item.



## PREVENTION:

### Protect Yourself:



- Keep in touch with old friends and neighbors.
- Invite old friends to meet new friends.
- Stay involved in social, cultural, church or community activities.
- Get free and confidential legal advice concerning your will.
- Have your pension cheques directly deposited into your bank account.
- Be cautious about having people come into your home especially if they have a background of additive, violent or illegal behavior.

### Protect Your Loved Ones:

- Stay in touch with elderly relatives or friends and their neighbors.
- Get help to make decisions about elder care.
- Discuss the desired care options with the elder ahead of time.
- Carefully consider the implications of providing home care.
- Get help to prevent overexertion of those caring for the elderly person.
- Respect the elder's privacy and independence.
- Educate yourself and be able to recognize the warning signs.

