



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day: June 15

Violence and abuse rates of older adults increase when people do not have an adequate income, affordable housing, secure sources of food, or are not treated with respect and dignity. Elder abuse is a societal issue, not just an individual one.

We need systemic changes brought about by leaders who have the political will and authority to address the root causes of poverty, inequity, and discrimination across a person's lifespan.

Dear Council of the Municipality of West Elgin,

Each year, on June 15th World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), we come together as a global community, concerned with abuse and neglect of older adults. On behalf of Elder Abuse Elgin I am writing to you today, to invite you to join us. This past year has brought an even greater sense of urgency for the need to increase awareness and response.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly increased the conditions for the abuse for older adults - from adult children moving back home, the rise in financial pressures, to isolation and loneliness reaching never-before seen levels. Agencies providing services to victims reported as much as a ten-fold increase of incidents in the first few months of 2020. Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario reported a 250% increase in elder abuse cases in the past year. It is time to educate and engage all Canadians about this issue.

ABOUT US

For more than 25 years, Elgin County has had an elder abuse network called Elder Abuse Elgin (EAE), which is made up of over 30 volunteers - community seniors and representatives from many different organizations who work with seniors. EAE meets quarterly, with the goal of mobilizing the community to address issues of Elder Abuse within Elgin through communication, advocacy, and case consultation, supported by funding initiatives. We receive no funding from any government body, and rely on donations and grants to carry on our awareness activities. One of our recent awareness strategies was the distribution of the attached materials across the entire Southwest Ontario area, in collaboration with the other Elder Abuse networks in the SW.



JOIN US

In recognition of WEAAD 2021, we are requesting that Municipalities across Elgin proclaim June 15th as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Please see the attached Proclamation, that we hope you will sign. In addition, you can support World Elder Abuse Awareness Day by wearing purple on June 15th.

We hope you will educate yourself about Elder Abuse; it is happening right here in Elgin County. 10% of Canadian seniors will experience abuse – often more than just one time. You can learn more about the risks and signs of elder abuse, and how each citizen can help, by checking out the Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario website www.eapon.ca. Also, you can register [here](#) for the WEAAD national online event co-hosted by the Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario, and CanAge entitled: *'Aging with Rights: Ending Elder Abuse in Canada'*.

Thankyou for supporting these strategies from Elder Abuse Elgin. Together we can eliminate the abuse that older adults face in our community.

Regards,

Bonnie

Bonnie Rowe, Chair
Elder Abuse Elgin