



# Hospice Highlights

## **WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY**

Do you have special elders in your life? Perhaps parents, grandparents, older friends, or relatives that you admire?

We often take for granted that elders are treated with all the kindness and respect that they deserve. But this is not always the case. In fact, it is such a problem that many countries as well as the United Nations have declared June 15th as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

The Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse explains that there are many kinds of abuse; physical, sexual,

emotional, and financial abuse. These are easily defined but there is also violation of rights and freedoms which includes interfering with spiritual practices or traditions, preventing visitors and dictating how the elder can spend their own money. And then there is neglect which is a failure to provide the elder necessities of life such as food, clothing, safe shelter, and medical attention.

For most of us it is unthinkable to treat people this way. And unfortunately, with so many people stressed over covid, abuse of all kinds is on the rise. Ageism is a very clear and present danger for many of our elders and it is up to all of us collectively to raise awareness.

While the senior population in Canada is growing, StatsCan estimates that up to 10% will experience abuse but only 1 in 5 of these incidents will be reported to someone who is able to help. The World Health Organization says that 1 in 6 people worldwide over the age of 60 have experienced some form of abuse in the last year. Shocking statistics, right?

June 15th is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Let's stand together and put a stop to all forms of abuse and help our elders enjoy their golden years with dignity and appreciation. They deserve that and so much more.

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**Terrace Hospice Society**

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