

PROJECT BRIEF

Be Wise & Aware: Preventing Financial Abuse of Seniors

Project Overview

As the largest cohort of our population ages, seniors today are more visible, more active, and more independent than ever before. Evidence from Statistics Canada suggests that each year, hundreds of thousands of our Canadian seniors are abused financially and exploited by their family members and/or caregivers. Financial abuse of the elderly is consistently unreported for various reasons, with the victims' dependency on the abuser being one of the major reasons.

Pertinent to this reality, coupled with the vulnerabilities and victimizations most seniors experience, Mainland Community Services Society is undertaking the project, "Be Wise & Aware: Preventing Financial Abuse of Seniors" in British Columbia (BC).

Objectives and Outcomes

The main objective of this project is to sensitize and empower seniors in BC with tools and resources to help them prepare and navigate situations of financial abuse. The project will address the following specific objectives:

- Create informative resources to help seniors prevent unscrupulous practices, financial fraud, and scams from happening to them.
- Organize workshops on financial abuse for seniors – thus enabling them to discuss, ask questions, and find answers relating to the issue.

In the long run, the project will achieve the following outcomes:

- The self-esteem and autonomy of seniors will be strengthened.
- Seniors will feel empowered to assess risk and take preventive actions to mitigate or lessen vulnerability.

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