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New awareness materials help Alberta seniors avoid financial abuse

June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Edmonton... New information is available to help seniors learn about financial abuse and take steps to avoid having their money, financial resources or property being misused without their consent or understanding. The information is available in conjunction with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, which is recognized on June 15 around the globe.

“One of the most common forms of elder abuse is financial, which can result in a senior losing some or all of his or her savings,” said Mary Anne Jablonski, Minister of Seniors and Community Supports. “To help prevent this, we partnered with the Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Network to develop and distribute information on this serious issue to seniors and organizations that support them.”

A card and fact sheet with information on financial abuse are being sent to more than 2,400 organizations across Alberta, as well as 900 financial institutions. The card is for individual seniors and explains what financial abuse is, how seniors can protect themselves and where to get help. The fact sheet is designed for seniors service providers and includes details on warning signs of financial abuse, how to help victims and where to get more information.

Other forms of abuse include physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Abuse can affect the physical and mental health of a senior and is not limited by gender, race, ethnicity, income or education. Elder abuse is any action or inaction that jeopardizes the health or well-being of an elderly person. The abuser can often be a spouse or adult child.

“Elder abuse is a serious issue around the world, and by sharing information on it, the Alberta government is supporting international efforts to recognize World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15,” said George VanderBurg, Chair of the Seniors Advisory Council for Alberta and MLA for Whitecourt-Ste. Anne. “By supporting Albertans and organizations in understanding what elder abuse is and what to do about it, we can better work together to respond to these situations and hopefully prevent them.”

More information on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and elder abuse, including links, posters, fact sheets and cards, is online at www.seniors.gov.ab.ca by following the New Financial Abuse Awareness Materials for Seniors link.

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