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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Resource Being Developed to Combat Financial Elder Abuse

Volunteer Richmond Information Services is embarking on a year-long project aimed at preventing financial elder abuse, with a focus on Richmond's Chinese community.

Working in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Elder Law, Volunteer Richmond will produce a print resource outlining the rights and responsibilities under a power of attorney, which grants an individual the right to act on another's behalf. It's an area of the law that's often misunderstood and frequently abused, the most common victims being seniors.

The resource will be written in English then translated into Chinese.

"We plan to start with a single language, but it's just that - a start," says Jocelyn Wong, Volunteer Richmond's General Manager. "Our long term goal is to create a series of resources tailored to the many unique ethno-cultural communities in Richmond."

To ensure that the resource is culturally relevant to the Chinese community, a draft version will be focus-tested at community events. In addition to including a brief presentation on powers of attorney, these events will give seniors and family members an opportunity to offer feedback and discuss ways to enhance elder financial abuse education.

"We're going to be very methodical throughout this process," says Wong. "We want to end up with a resource that's legally accurate but easy to understand. Most importantly, it has to address the issues in a way that's relatable to the cultural community we're hoping to reach."

Funding for the project is provided by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program.

For additional information, please contact Volunteer Richmond at 604-279-7020.

Volunteer Richmond Information Services is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of Richmond residents by bringing people and services together through community information and volunteerism. For more information call 604-279-7020 or visit our website at www.volunteerrichmond.ca.

The Canadian Centre for Elder Law is a national, non-profit organization that investigates the legal issues impacting older people and their families and communities. The CCEL's work includes

legal research, law reform, public legal education and outreach. More details at www.bcli.org/ccel.

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