



CANADIAN CENTRE FOR
ELDER LAW

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Media Release

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – June 15

for immediate release

Vancouver, 14 June 2011—The Canadian Centre for Elder Law (CCEL) will commemorate the sixth annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) by publishing a discussion paper focused on supporting health care and social service practitioners to respond to concerns regarding elder abuse and neglect in Canada.

The Counterpoint Discussion Paper, *Moving From Scrutiny to Strategy: An Analysis of Key Canadian Elder Abuse and Neglect Cases*, reviews a number of recent court decisions involving elder abuse and neglect. The cases serve as a backdrop for a study that highlights the social dynamics at play in elder abuse cases, compares relevant legislation across the country, clarifies legal obligations to respond to elder abuse under legislation and professional codes of ethics, and makes recommendations for policy development and training to support enhanced practice. The Counterpoint Discussion Paper is available in English and French on the CCEL website: www.bcli.org/ccel.

“Addressing elder abuse raises difficult questions and poses ethical dilemmas for practitioners,” states CCEL National Director, Krista James. “However, Canadian health care and social service providers play a key role in a coordinated response to elder abuse and neglect.”

The Counterpoint Project was funded by the Division of Aging and Seniors, Public Health Agency of Canada, under the Federal Elder Abuse Initiative. As part of this project the CCEL has also developed a series of resources to support practice. These tools, which include a brochure on mental capacity and consent, a factsheet for nurses, and a series of videos, will be available on the CCEL website in July 2011.

WEAAD started in Canada and is now observed around the world. The Day recognizes the mistreatment of older adults and highlights the need for appropriate action and prevention efforts.

The CCEL is a national, non-profit body dedicated to exploring legal issues that impact older Canadians. The CCEL conducts scholarly law reform, legal research and writing, legal education, and public outreach.

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