



CANADIAN CENTRE FOR  
ELDER LAW

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A DIVISION OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA LAW INSTITUTE

## OLDER WOMEN'S DIALOGUE PROJECT

### Advisory Committee Members

#### **Shashi Assanand**

Shashi Assanand, Founder and Executive Director of the Vancouver & Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services Society, is a Registered Social Worker and has worked with the Immigrant communities for over 34 years. She has extensive counseling and advocacy experience in working with immigrant and refugees (families, youth and women). She is a trained and experienced mediator in family and community disputes. She is very actively involved in the areas of Multiculturalism and women's issues locally, provincially and nationally.

#### **Penny Bain**

Penny Bain B.A., L.L.B., L.L.M., is a retired member of the BC Law Society and former Executive Director of the BC Centre for Elder Advocacy and Support. During her career she worked for seven years as the Executive Director of the BC Institute Against Family Violence and fourteen years as a senior manager with the BC legal aid plan. In her retirement she serves on the boards of directors of BCCEAS and Women Against Violence Against Women.

#### **Anne Beveridge**

Anne Beveridge B.Sc., LL.B., LL.M., is a semi-retired lawyer who teaches part-time online for Thompson Rivers University Open Learning Business Faculty. She has a continuing interest in access to justice issues having spent several years as a poverty lawyer at the North Shore Community Law Office and later as a client services manager at the BC Legal Services Society (legal aid). Until recently she provided pro bono legal services at the Silver Harbour Seniors' Centre in North Vancouver—a role that has given her first hand insight into difficulties faced by aging women.

#### **Elsie Dean**

Elsie Dean has been active since retirement working for the rights of elders and in particular women elders. As President of the Board of Directors of 411 Seniors Centre Society

(1977) she is helping the Society develop new programs and services that will meet the needs of elders now and in the future.

### **Donna Dickison**

Donna Dickison worked in a long-term facility for 29 years. She was very involved with her trade union, the Hospital Employees Union, for many years, serving as local shop steward and chairperson, as well as her local community. She is a member of the Aboriginal Women's Action Network. Donna has been retired for the last five years.

### **Penny Goldsmith**

Penny Goldsmith has worked in the anti-poverty community for over thirty years as an advocate and as a writer and editor of public legal education materials in plain language. For the past seventeen years she has been the executive co-ordinator of PovNet, an online information resource, communication network and teaching tool for anti-poverty front line workers and poor and otherwise marginalized people. She maintains a strong commitment to continuing to be part of a network that builds accessible and affordable online communities. She is also the owner of a small publishing house, Lazara Press, where she publishes and distributes progressive books and posters.

### **Susan Henry**

Susan Henry works as a community legal advocate at First United Church in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. In addition to her 15 years' frontline advocacy experience, she has a Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Gerontology from Simon Fraser University.

### **Jill Hightower**

Jill Hightower continues to be a strong advocate for older women. She retired as Executive Director of the BC Institute Against Family Violence in 1998. She then became a founding partner in a small research and education consulting group focused on public policy, health and social issues affecting older women. Jill has published and presented papers in print, at conferences in North America and Europe, and at community forums across Canada.

### **Linda Light**

Linda light has worked in the area of violence against women, children, and older people for over 30 years, 22 of those in the provincial government and the last eight as a consultant. She has helped develop cross-sector policies, training initiatives, and a wide range of educational resources; conducted research, and written extensively in this field.

### **Andrea Rolls**

Andrea Rolls worked nearly 30 years in provincial government providing community supervision of offenders and family court mediation and conciliation, as well as senior policy planning and advice to government on victim services, restorative justice and crime pre-

vention programs. Her particular interest in elder law reform resulted from involvement with the BC Adult Abuse and Neglect Prevention Collaborative and activities that demonstrated how law reform and accessibility to justice could improve the safety and well-being of older adults. Andrea is enthusiastic that BCLI includes community input to inform and identify new areas for law reform.

### **Carol Ross**

Carol Ross is Executive Director of Parent Support Services Society of BC (PSS). She has extensive experience in community based advocacy and resource development, especially in areas relating to Family and Poverty Law. PSS provides a unique focus on researching and developing supportive resources and programs on and for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and other kinship care providers.

### **The Honourable Madam Justice Lynn Smith**

Lynn Smith, B.A., LL.B., LL.D. (Hon.) was appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia in 1998. She served as a Justice of that Court until her retirement from the bench in 2012.

In 2005-06, Justice Smith was Executive Director of the National Judicial Institute, on secondment from the Court. She is a Judicial Associate of the National Judicial Institute and serves on the faculty of the Charter and Evidence Workshops as well as the New Federally-Appointed Judges Program. She has been involved in international judicial education exchanges with China, Scotland, Ghana and Viet Nam.

Prior to her appointment as a judge, she practised law, specializing in civil litigation. She taught law at the University of British Columbia 1981-97 in areas including Constitutional Law, Evidence, Civil Litigation, and Real Property. She has published books and articles in the fields of Charter equality rights, civil litigation and evidence, human rights, and women's equality. She was Dean of the U.B.C. Law Faculty 1991-97.