

A Shared Concern

Spring 2012



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Seniors Advocacy and Information Line

1-866-437-1940
604-437-1940

Monday to Friday
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

BC CEAS Welcomes New Board Members

BC CEAS is pleased to announce the addition of Anne Beveridge and Sandra Wilking to our Board of Directors. Both Anne and Sandra bring a wealth of experience and we welcome them to the BC CEAS family.



Anne Beveridge

Anne Beveridge has a background in business and legal aid administrative laws, having been a community law office lawyer and then client services manager for the BC Legal Services Society. She presently works part time as a faculty member at Thompson Rivers University – Open Learning Division, teaching and writing law courses. Anne has had several years of volunteer experience at a seniors' legal clinic and maintains a strong interest in access to justice issues.

Sandra Wilking is currently Director, Corporate & Endowment Programs for S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Foundation. Prior to this position, she was Project Manager for the Immigrant Public Legal Education & Information Project, a collaborative consortium of 12 agencies from the Immigrant Settlement and Public Legal Education & Information sectors. She served for five years as a Citizenship Judge for British Columbia and the Yukon. A former Vancouver City Councilor, her community involvement has included being a board member with various non profit organizations such as the Vancouver Foundation, S.U.C.C.E.S.S., United Way, and Imagine Canada. She is also a member of the Honorary Governors' Council for Vancouver Foundation and a TELUS Community Board member.



Sandra Wilking

Education & Outreach Initiatives

Building Community Bridges: Outreach to At Risk Older Women Project

BC CEAS, with funding from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General's Victim Service & Crime Prevention Division, has begun work on the *Building Community Bridges: Outreach to At Risk Older Women* Project.

As part of this project, BC CEAS' Support Group Coordinator, Carmencita Orquiola, has established six support groups for older women, aged 50+, at six independent living facilities in Vancouver, Richmond and Surrey. The six support groups will be facilitated by Carmen with the assistance of 12 trained older adult volunteers.

Through a series of ten workshop sessions, the support groups will provide the older women with education and information on elder abuse, domestic violence, the justice system, safety and security, victim services, community resources, and coordinated response networks. The project is part of BC CEAS' outreach strategy to reach isolated and vulnerable older adults.

The support groups will provide the older women with an opportunity to build closer relationships and develop connections with other women in their seniors housing complex, enhance personal and community safety, and develop strategies for helping a friend who is being abused.

During the duration of the project, the groups will develop plans to continue past the ten sessions. A group leader will be chosen to organize the group on an ongoing basis and will continue to receive support from BC CEAS after the completion of the project. During the pro-

ject a manual will be produced which will describe the project with a step by step guide to establishing other support groups of this nature.

Participants in this project will benefit from an increased knowledge and understanding of the nature, causes and types of elder abuse and its overall impact on older adults. They will also gain a better understanding of the roles of the police, health units, victim service workers, VictimLINK, non-profit organizations and service providers in the prevention and elimination of elder abuse.

Residential Tenancy Workshops

The Law Foundation of British Columbia continues to fund the BC CEAS Legal Advocacy Program which is coordinated by Legal Advocate, Nighat Afsar. In addition to providing legal information and assistance to clients by telephone and in person, Nighat also conducts workshops on residential tenancy for older adult community groups. These workshops cover basic information on Residential Tenancy Law in British Columbia with a focus on tenants' and landlords' rights and responsibilities.



Nighat Afsar, Legal Advocate

If you are interested in booking a Residential Tenancy Workshop for your community group, please contact Nighat at 604-688-1927.

Financial Literacy 102 Provincial Workshops

BC CEAS, in collaboration with the BC Association of Community Response Networks and with funding from SEDI (TD Financial Literacy Grant), is presenting Financial Literacy 102 Workshops to senior-serving professionals in five communities around the province.

The full-day workshops are being facilitated in the communities of Kelowna, Langley, Victoria, Quesnel and Castlegar. Workshop topics include financial literacy, financial planning for older adults, as well as identifying and responding to financial abuse of older adults. The goal of the workshops is to enhance the knowledge of those who work with seniors, and to provide them with resources and tools for working with older adults who are at risk.

Feedback from the April 3rd Kelowna workshop which 20 people representing different community agencies in the Okanagan region attended was overwhelmingly positive. Participants remarked that they “learned so much valuable information” and were “better prepared to provide information and assistance to vulnerable seniors”.

Financial Literacy 102 Workshop Series



Kelowna - April 3rd

Langley - April 18

Victoria - April 27

Quesnel - May 4

Castlegar - May 15

Lower Mainland Community Education Team News

The Community Education Team of staff and *Seniors Reaching Out to Seniors* Program volunteers has been busy facilitating workshops at community centres, seniors’ residences and

libraries throughout the Lower Mainland. Staff and volunteers have facilitated 25 workshops in the first quarter of the new year in the communities of Vancouver, Richmond, Langley, Surrey, North Vancouver, Maple Ridge, New Westminster and Coquitlam.

Education & Outreach Program Coordinator, Shelley McClenahan, would like to welcome some new members to the Community Education Team. Thank you to Harvey Slobod, Lynda Caron, Paula Stromberg, Robin Brenner, Royce Shook, Joye Johnston and Norma Bearblock for giving us your time and completing the training sessions necessary to become a part of the team. Shelley looks forward to collaborating with you as you begin facilitating workshops in the coming weeks. BC CEAS also thanks our past and present volunteers without whom our workshop program would not be the success that it is.

Educate and Empower with BCCEAS Workshops

Protect Yourself! Financial Literacy

The goal of the Protect Yourself! Financial Literacy Workshop Program is to provide older adults with the information they need to protect their finances, recognize and respond to financial abuse, access community resources for further information or assistance, and make informed financial decisions that meet their needs.

Building Community Connections

Building Community Connections focuses on social connection as a powerful tool to keep older adults safer from abuse and neglect. This 90 minute session can be presented to groups of older adults in any community setting.

To book a workshop for your group of 10 or more, contact us at 604-688-1927.

Elder Law Clinic Updates

ELC Streamlines Intake Process

In 2008, BC CEAS established the first legal aid clinic for older adults in western Canada. The lawyers and legal advocate at the Elder Law Clinic (ELC) provide services to older adults, aged 55+, who are on a fixed income and unable to access legal help elsewhere. Over the past few months, BC CEAS has been working on improvements to the intake process for the legal programs and the ELC is seeing a significant increase in clients served.

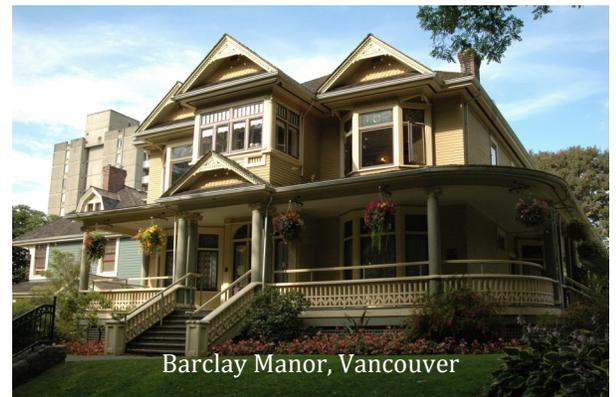
The lawyers and legal advocate are able to provide information and support for the following legal issues: residential tenancy; assisted living/long-term care; government benefits; financial exploitation; debt; guardianship/capacity; abuse/neglect; discrimination.

To access information, support or get a referral to the Elder Law Clinic, call the Seniors Advocacy & Information Line at 1-866-437-1940.

Barclay Manor Legal Clinics

Beginning in March, BC CEAS has hosted a free Walk In Legal Clinic at Barclay Manor each Wednesday for adults age 55+ who face financial or other significant barriers to accessing justice. Located in Vancouver's West End, historic Barclay Manor is home to a variety of social, recreational and educational programs for older adults offered by the West End Community Centre and the West End Seniors Network.

At the Walk In Legal Clinic, older adults meet with a BC CEAS lawyer for up to 30 minutes and are provided summary legal advice on a variety of legal issues such as residential tenancy law and financial elder abuse. Individuals are also provided referrals to other legal and non-legal services available in the community. Eligible individuals with ongoing legal issues are referred to the BC CEAS Elder Law Clinic, where they receive full representation.



Barclay Manor, Vancouver

BC CEAS trains Department of Justice lawyers

The Department of Justice has designed a new Wills Clinic where DOJ lawyers will draft simple wills for low-income seniors and terminally ill people at a weekly clinic at the Justice Access Centre in the downtown Vancouver courthouse. Clients will be able to book a series of appointments in order to have their wills prepared and executed in a short period of time.

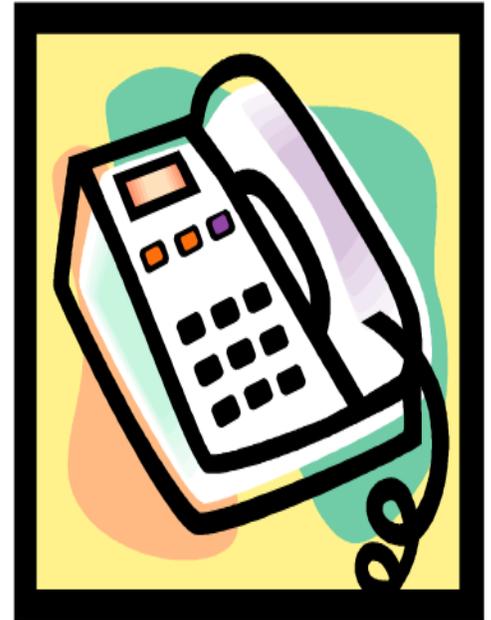
BC CEAS staff lawyer, Heather Campbell provided training to the DOJ lawyers and articling students who will be drafting the wills as part of the one-year pilot project. The presentation, *Elder Abuse: Professional Responsibility, Ethics and Risk Management*, identified warning signs of elder abuse, particularly financial elder abuse, and reviewed the 4 C's of elder law - client identification, competency, confidentiality, and conflicts of interest.

Seniors Advocacy & Information Line

For people aged 55+

1-866-437-1940

The BC CEAS Seniors Advocacy & Information Line (SAIL) is a toll-free provincial phone line for older adults which is staffed from 9:00am-1:00pm, Monday to Friday. Staff and trained volunteers who answer the phone line provide support, information and referrals to callers. SAIL staff will refer callers with a legal question or problem to legal staff. Callers who need emotional or practical support will be referred to our Victim Services Program. Staff will also provide information about services in the community that may help with the particular problem.



SAIL LINE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The BC Centre for Elder Advocacy and Support (BC CEAS) is **seeking volunteers for the Seniors Advocacy and Information Line**. Volunteers will be trained to provide information and support to callers. The lines operate from Monday to Friday from 9 am to 1pm. We are seeking volunteers who have experience working with seniors and knowledge about the issues seniors face. Training and ongoing support will be provided. We are looking for a long-term commitment of one 4 hour session each week.

If you are interested, please contact BC CEAS Victim Services Worker, Genevieve Smith, at 604-437- 1940 or at gsmith@bcceas.ca.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.bcceas.ca



Upcoming Events:

Protect Yourself! Frauds & Scams workshop for older adults at the Seniors Centre in Squamish on May 9th and at Minoru Place Activity Centre in Richmond on May 23rd.

Protect Yourself! Powers of Attorney & Joint Accounts workshop for older adults at Surrey-Fleetwood Aging in Place Conference on June 8th and at Kelowna Seniors Safety Fair on June 13th.

We invite you to visit the BC CEAS website to view a full list of our current Education & Outreach workshops and forums.

www.bcceas.ca



BC Centre for Elder
Advocacy and Support

P 604-688-1927
F 604-437-1929
W www.bcceas.ca

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Donate to BC CEAS

In order to eliminate the abuse of B.C. seniors we depend on public donations. Donations help contribute to the necessary work to assist B.C. seniors that are isolated and suffering from the effects of elder abuse.

To make a donation, mail cheque to:

BC CEAS
370 - 1199 West Pender Street
Vancouver, BC
V6E 2R1

All donations of \$10 or more will be recognized by an issued tax receipt.