



## **BC Association of Community Response Networks – Provincial and Local Roles**

### **Provincial Role – BC Association of Community Response Networks (BC CRN)**

Community Response Networks (CRNs) are members of, and are supported by the BC Association of Community Response Networks. The Association is a registered non-profit society and a charitable organization. CRNs are the Association's local presence in communities, which we believe will be needed in communities until we have prevented adult abuse/neglect altogether. The Association supports its local CRN members by providing a website, monthly teleconferences, bulletins, a CRN Mentors' Team, workshops, cross-province projects, and a coordinated approach to fundraising.

The BC CRN connects with other provincial and regional bodies to jointly work toward the prevention of abuse and neglect of all adults 19 and older and to address systemic issues raised by local CRNs that impact how adults who may be vulnerable to abuse or neglect get help. CRNs are referenced in BC's Adult Guardianship Legislation in relation to Part 3 of the Adult Guardianship Act: Support and Assistance for Abused and Neglected Adults. CRNs were developed in relation to the implementation of this Act.

### **Local Role – Community Response Networks (CRNs)**

CRNs are collaborative informal networks that are the BC CRN's local presence in communities. CRNs are the BC CRN. CRNs are guided by the community development principles of inclusion, meaningful participation, power-sharing and assuming capability/building capacity. CRNs focus on building overall community capacity to increasingly effectively address and prevent adult abuse/neglect of all adults by doing:

- outreach to include everyone with an interest,
- community/public/professional education,
- relationship building and the development of protocols,
- identifying gaps, overlaps in the community's response, and
- systemic advocacy from a relationship-building perspective (e.g. identifying how certain policies and procedures impact adults, or the need for a new program in the community).

The "how" of working on these tasks is as important as the tasks themselves. CRNs are about building trusting, open working relationships among diverse members, striving to be a microcosm of the communities they are working to create. They utilize non-violent communication because their focus is on addressing/preventing adult abuse.

CRNs are inclusive of everyone in the community who is concerned about adult abuse/neglect (e.g. concerned community members, service providers, business people). This necessitates confidentiality at CRN meetings regarding identifiable information about adults who may be abused or neglected (e.g. case discussions or planning individualized interventions are not CRN activities). Although CRNs do not deliver programs that involve a response to individual situations or cases, they may well identify the need for such programs. They may also work to see that they are established under the auspices of local organizations with the appropriate infrastructure (e.g. a legal entity with liability insurance) to support them.