

Quoting key leaders in response to a callout for support of the BCACRN (British Columbia Association of Community Response Networks) 2009 New Horizon's funding call...

Joan Braun, Executive Director, BC Center for Elder Advocacy Support... "...the BCACRN is ideally positioned to create and deliver information sharing events throughout BC. The BCACRN is an umbrella organization (that) supports and coordinates existing networks of individuals and agencies dealing with adult abuse including senior abuse throughout British Columbia. As such, the BCACRN is widely respected. This project will be welcomed by organizations (that) provide services to older adults as it will strengthen and broaden the existing networks of agencies and individuals working in this field. There is no doubt that the work conducted in this project will be sustainable long after the project is completed."

Kari Chambers, Elders Coordinator, Tsleil-Waututh Nation... "The Tsleil-Waututh Nation Elders Department has also been considering 'creating its own Community Response Network within the Nation and the District of North Vancouver. The initiative made by the BCACRN to secure funding for educational and informational workshops province-wide would provide essential tools to help us establish our own CRN for the Tsleil Waututh Nation. My colleagues and I would greatly benefit from attending a workshop or conference on how to create a CRN in our community. Working with the BCACRN for the past three years, I realize how essential a Community Response Network is to the ability to provide a rapid response to our community, our families, and our Elders in their time of need."

Elsie Gerdes, President, B.C. Old Age Pensioner's Organization... "On behalf of the BC Old Age Pensioner's Organization, I would like to indicate our full support of the BC Association of Community Response Networks in their application for a grant from the New Horizon's for Seniors Program, in their dealing with Elder Abuse information sharing and participation. We have 4800 members and 48 branches throughout the province: they will be invited to take part in the regional conferences."

Ann Henderson, Mayor, Salmo... "Since we are a very small community, we require the support of the BCACRN in the presentation of workshops and in the attendance of training seminars. It is only through education that we can be of assistance to our seniors. Our members who have previously attended provincial conferences have found the information and training invaluable and it renewed their enthusiasm for the cause that they work so hard to promote."

Mamie Hutt-Temoana, CEO, Vancouver Association of Neighborhood Houses... "We are very pleased to have the opportunity to support and work with the BCACRN as this organization is committed to the grassroots involvement of people who are personally impacted by senior abuse...consistent with the Association's mission 'to make neighborhoods better places to live to enable people to embrace their lives', the BCACRN brings expertise to the senior abuse prevention field."

Sylvia MacLeay, President of Council of Senior Citizens' Organization of BC ... "COSCO (membership of 70,000 seniors) endorses the grant proposal of the BCACRN for the New Horizons Elder Abuse Funding Call. Abuse of seniors is a subject that is too often not addressed with serious consequences. COSCO knows that funds received by this organization will be carefully administered and used to help seniors in the province."

Deborah O'Connor, Director, Centre for Research on Personhood in Dementia, UBC... "The BCACRN has been playing a pivotal role in BC developing community awareness and

support for older adults who are victims of abuse. The inroads they have been making are especially impressive, given the very limited budget; alas however despite heroic efforts to stretch limited resources to their fullest, there remain huge gaps in BC around insuring effective knowledge, advocacy and skill building in this area. This project will allow the BCACRN to extend its leadership role in important ways, including promoting increased networking and education opportunities, and insuring that those working in the area have the best possible local, provincial and national support.... I wish you the best of luck with this proposal. I am aware that BC has taken a leadership role in the area of Elder Abuse, largely due to the impressive efforts of the BCACRN.”

Andrea Rolls, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division... “...this Division has a history of collaboration with the BCACRN, recognizing its unique role in bringing together concerned individuals, seniors’ service providers, health agencies and the justice system together to address abuse and neglect of older people...I endorse this application unequivocally...I look forward to working with BCACRN on this ambitious project.”

Charmaine Spencer, Research Associate, Gerontology Research Centre & Adjunct Professor, Department of Gerontology, SFU... “On a personal and professional note, I have known and admired the work of the BC Association of Community Response Networks for many years and have been pleased by its highly principled approach to the issues, the strength of the organization, and its ability to carry out challenging tasks. I would be happy to serve as a member of the project Advisory Committee.”

Laura Watts, National Director, The Canadian Centre for Elder Law... “The (CCEL) has worked in strategic partnership with the BC CRNs for years, and this working relationship has included the development of the Vanguard Project materials...the BC CRNs are the key organization with the capacity to implement this elder abuse awareness, and the provincial communities and organizations have strong support to do this work. They have a strong and consistent track record of achieving goals in time and within grant perimeters...”