

**The National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly (NICE)**  
**An outline of: *Elder Abuse Team: Knowledge to Action Project***

**Who We Are:**

The National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly (NICE) is a national network of seniors, researchers, practitioners, and students dedicated to improving the care of older adults, in Canada and abroad. We are governed by a 16-member Board of Directors, similarly comprised of seniors, expert researchers and practitioners in the care of the elderly from across Canada. NICE is primarily a knowledge transfer network with three overarching goals: (1) disseminating evidence-based research into practice through the development of simple, user-friendly, interdisciplinary tools; (2) addressing the shortage of professionals in gerontology and geriatrics by attracting new students to the field, and enhancing the training current students receive; and (3) advocating positive changes to policies about the care of the elderly.

**Mandate:** The mandate of NICE is to improve how seniors receive care by fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and closing the gap between research and practice. We are funded through the Government of Canada's Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) -New Initiative program. Our arm, the *International Collaboration for the Care of the Elderly (ICCE)*, has extended our membership to ten other countries.

**Elder Abuse Team: Knowledge to Action (October 2008 – Sept. 2011)**

Our project has the support of 26 partners across Canada and internationally, including elder abuse organizations; universities; nation-wide professional organizations; law and law enforcement agencies; as well as community and social service organizations. We received funding for our elder abuse awareness project from the New Horizons for Seniors Program, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

**The Elder Abuse Team Role:** The overarching Elder Abuse Team contains clusters of smaller teams based on natural groupings of interest among the members. Currently there are 24 members on the Team in three sub-teams, which will expand to four. Team members include older adults with expertise in elder abuse and neglect and experts from numerous disciplines and professions, including medicine, nursing, social work, law and law enforcement, rehabilitation science, social science, policy development, and community development. The Team will address issues of detecting, managing, preventing and raising awareness about elder abuse through: (1) tool development; (2) tool dissemination; and (3) the leadership of seniors in every aspect of the program.

**The Tools:** Each of the sub-teams will develop a tool (or tools) and pilot the tool(s) in a specified number of settings. The tool(s) will be revised following the pilot, and then formally evaluated using a case study approach, in accordance with protocols in our other teams. Once evaluated, the tools will be translated into both official languages and then the Team will hold dissemination forums across the country to introduce these tools into practice. The tools will also be made available on our website which has links to all our major partners in Canada and in 10 other countries. We plan that the Team will produce four tools per year over the three years of the project. Each year will follow a similar process of tool development and dissemination. The tools for 2009 are as follows: Caregiver Abuse Screen (CASE), Indicators of Abuse (IOA), Elder Abuse Suspicion Index (EASI), EN Main/IN Hand (a tool used for ethical decision making for social workers) and the Police Tool (a check list of indicators for abuse and neglect of an older person). The tools were chosen because they are Canadian and they are supported by research.

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**Objectives:**

**Increase the use** of evidence-based **research** in the detection, intervention and prevention of elder abuse and neglect in Canada through the development and dissemination of simple, user-friendly tools based on reliable research evidence.

**Improve practitioners' awareness and skills** in detecting and managing elder abuse through the uptake and use of simple, user-friendly tools based on reliable research evidence.

**Increase the use of interdisciplinary** approaches to the detection, intervention and prevention of elder abuse through the development and dissemination of interdisciplinary tools through national interdisciplinary forums.

Foster **leadership of seniors** in the fight against elder abuse by engaging them in all stages and activities of the Team.

Increase **community awareness** of elder abuse through team presentations with **seniors as integral members** of the Team.

**Activities:** Our Team will (1) identify areas of concern in elder abuse; (2) identify evidence-based research in these areas; (3) develop, evaluate and translate tools to address these areas; (4) disseminate these tools into practice; and (5) evaluate the tools in practice. At the end of each fiscal year, the Team will conduct training forums across the country to introduce these tools into practice. These forums are planned as full-day events to introduce the tools to their audiences, such as practitioners and seniors themselves. At these forums, participants will be trained on how to best use the tools in an interactive, hands-on, interdisciplinary context. The forums will also feature a session on "training the trainer," so that those who attend the forums can begin to teach others to use the tools in other settings. The forums will be facilitated through a team comprised of a senior, researcher, and practitioner. Seniors will also be actively involved as participants and in coordinating these forums across the country, as Regional Coordinators. The audiences for the annual forums will vary year by year, depending on the tools developed over the preceding year. The forums will take place in five regions across Canada: British Columbia, Prairies, Ontario, Quebec, and Atlantic Canada.

Seniors will be involved in this project in two key ways: (1) as members of the theme teams, and (2) through a seniors-led interdisciplinary team for community engagement to raise awareness. For the seniors engagement component, we will (1) train seniors for community speaking; (2) facilitate seniors' community discussions to raise awareness of elder abuse; and (3) evaluate the outreach activities. Our activities differ from other projects in that we emphasize an **interdisciplinary** approach to elder abuse; we have an established and effective infrastructure for **getting evidence into practice**; and we are actively involving **seniors as integral members** of the Team. The seniors on the team bring their perspective to the design and implementation process and provide their views on the efficacy of the tools. Seniors will also be brought on as regional coordinators (five across Canada) to help coordinate the annual dissemination forums. Further, the seniors on the elder abuse team will work with the NICE Seniors Advisory Committee.

**Beneficiaries:** This project will directly benefit *all* seniors. Indirect audiences who will benefit include practitioners who work with older adults, including police officers, and the friends and families of seniors.

**Evaluation Plan:** We will evaluate the success of our activities according to our established objectives through process and outcome evaluations, as directed by a project evaluator. To evaluate our success in achieving our objectives, we will conduct both process and outcome

## *Elder Abuse Team: Knowledge to Action Project*

evaluations of our activities. Many of the objectives will be measured through a case study evaluation of the tool development and implementation. All tools developed in the Theme Teams are evaluated using this method on the advice of knowledge transfer experts. At present, we envision the evaluation of this project as

follows: Process evaluation. We will collect data on the number of tools developed by the team (on an annual basis), the number of training sessions held (on an annual basis), the attendance and composition of the audience at the training sessions (on an annual basis) and the number of sessions and attendance of our seniors' training and speaking engagements. These data will be helpful in understanding how our project was implemented. Collecting these data on a routine basis will help identify and manage any implementation issues which might affect the success of the project.

**Official Languages:** As our project is national in scope, we will ensure that our tools and resources are made available in both English and French. Translation of the tools will take place after they have been piloted and evaluated. We will ensure that our dissemination forums and outreach programs are presented in the language most appropriate for the region. We have accounted for the time and cost of translation in our budget.

*\* Please note that we define "practitioner" broadly, to include health care practitioners but also law enforcement personnel, social workers, lawyers, and any other professional who provides care or support to older adults.*

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