

# Seniors Leading Change

## Elder Abuse Prevention in Canada

### AGING IN CANADA

**1 in 5 Canadians**

was 65+ in 2022



That's over 7 million people  
(18.8% of the population)

In 2037, the 65+ population is  
expected to reach



**10.4 million**

with the 75+ demographic  
growing at a faster pace.

### PREVALENCE OF ELDER ABUSE

The World Health Organization defines elder abuse as:

“ a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person. ”



**1 in 10** older Canadians  
experience some form of  
mistreatment each year.



Elder abuse is often **under-reported** due to stigma, shame and fear. Rates of elder abuse are likely higher.



According to the first Global Report on Ageism, **1 in 2 people** globally are ageist against older people.



In **81% of cases**, it was a **spouse, family member, friend, neighbour, or acquaintance** causing the harm.



Financial abuse is the most well-known form, but mistreatment can also be **physical, emotional, sexual, or neglect.**



There are only **13 emergency and transitioning shelters** for older adults across Canada.



# ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION NETWORKS IN CANADA

EAPNs provide critical infrastructure to support prevention work and to build toward a pan-Canadian response of educated and engaged citizens.



## Future Us: A Roadmap to the Prevention of Elder Abuse

**Goal 2: Establish and support elder abuse prevention networks at local, regional, and national levels.**

## WE NEED A PAN-CANADIAN APPROACH TO ENSURE EQUITY ACROSS PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES

As of 2024:



**8 Provinces/Territories** have an Elder Abuse Strategy



**6 Provinces/Territories** have a network



**4 networks** have annualized funding



CANADIAN NETWORK for  
the PREVENTION of ELDER ABUSE  
RÉSEAU CANADIEN pour la PRÉVENTION  
du MAUVAIS TRAITEMENT des AÎNÉS

For up to date information about elder abuse and neglect law, consult the Canadian Centre for Elder Law's *Practical Guide to Elder Abuse and Neglect Law in Canada* at [ccelderlaw.ca](http://ccelderlaw.ca).

For more information about elder abuse prevention across Canada, visit [cnpea.ca](http://cnpea.ca). Discover our national strategy *Future us* at [futureus.cnpea.ca](http://futureus.cnpea.ca).