If you are an Elder experiencing abuse, know an Elder who is being abused, or suspect that an Elder has been subjected to abuse, it's important to know that **you are not alone,** and help is available.

What Other Options Do I Have?

The Adult Protection program recognizes that competent adults have the right to make their own decisions and services will only be provided with consent. There are other options for aid if you do not want to use the Adult Protection program, including:

- Reach out to family members or friends;
- Talk to your doctor, counsellor, religious leader, or someone trusted in your community;
- Find out about other support services;
- Or call the police.

Wolastoqey
Tribal Council Inc.

New Brunswick Law Foundation
Fondation pour le droit au Nouveau-Brunswick

For more details on elder abuse and how to seek help, visit our website.

Elder Abuse

What to Do and How to Seek Help



What Are the Forms of Elder Abuse?

- Neglect;
- Financial abuse;
- Physical abuse;
- Sexual abuse;
- Psychological or emotional abuse;
- Medical abuse;
- Spiritual abuse.

What Are Potential Signs of Elder Abuse?

- Fear of caregivers;
- Missed bill payments;
- Sudden change of their will;
- Overly sedated or lethargic;
- Sexually transmitted infections (STIs);
- Unusual withdrawals from their bank account;
- Malnourishment;
- Going without necessities (i.e., toilet paper, food, etc.);
- Skin conditions, bruises, marks, and pressure sores.

Who Can Be an Abuser?

An abuser can be anyone. They may try to isolate the elder, separating the victim from their community and loved ones. Oftentimes, abusers are individuals who have a relationship with the victim, such as a family member, friend, caregiver, spouse, landlord, or staff in a nursing or special care home.

Wolastoqey Elders are at higher risk of abuse
Elders hold great importance in Wolastoqey culture, but colonization, the legacy of residential schools, and ongoing cycles of family abuse have negatively impacted their treatment. As a result, disrespect has become more common, and in severe instances, it can lead to Elder abuse.

How Do I Report Elder Abuse?

If you suspect that you or an Elder you know, may be a victim of abuse, you can report by emailing the **New Brunswick Adult Protection** program through Social Development at **sd-ds@gnb.ca** or calling **1-833-733-7835.** Press option #1 to reach a social worker trained in adult protection, and explain your situation.



The Adult Protection program phone line is **available 24 hours, seven days a week.** Anyone can report/make a referral regarding Elder abuse. Social Development Canada will not disclose who reported the abuse without consent, unless ordered to do so by a judge.

There is no penalty for reporting suspected elder abuse, even if it turns out that you were wrong.

If the information you provide meets the Adult Protection program's criteria, a social worker will conduct an investigation. The investigation will start based on the information received from the report/referral, or immediately if the elder is in immediate danger.

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