

Elder Abuse Day
June 15, 2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Patt Lenover- Adams

June 15, 2011, Envision Counselling and Support Centre will be recognizing the 6th annual World Elder Abuse Day. This is a day to acknowledge that this is a public health issue and we need to come together as a community to generate action. The purpose of this day is to provide an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons by raising awareness.

Patt Lenover-Adams, Executive Director at Envision states, "Each year, hundreds of thousands of older persons are abused and neglected, frequently by their family members or other caregivers. The majority of these cases are never reported or investigated". It is reported one in five incidents are ever discovered. Reasons for this under-reporting include a general lack of knowledge about what financial abuse is and the fact that individuals close to the victims are too often the ones perpetrating the crimes. The victim may feel embarrassed or may fear abandonment and rejection if the incident was to be reported.

Lenover-Adams says, "World Elder Abuse Day is an excellent opportunity to share information about abuse and neglect in older persons. Public education and raising awareness of abuse or mistreatment is an ongoing effort and should not be subjected to one specific day". There are many ways to become involved with this public health issue. Visit the National Centre on Elder Abuse website for more information on what you can do. Any effort made can make a difference in the lives of vulnerable elders.

As the number of seniors in our communities increases each year, it is more important than ever to increase awareness and make sure our seniors are safe and protected from every form of abuse.