

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.0 Background

The *NWT Network* to Prevent Abuse of Older Adults (NWTNPAOA) is established in accordance with the direction provided by the participants at the *Leading the Way – The Work Continues* Workshop held at the Baker Community Centre, Yellowknife, November 8 - 9, 2011. For ease of reference, the NWTNPAOA will be hereafter referred to as the *NWT Network*.

The *NWT Network* is comprised of community representatives, NGOs, government departments, agencies and aboriginal organizations committed to ensuring older adults living in the NWT are free from abuse and neglect.

2.0 Authority

The *NWT Network* is established under the authority of the NWT Seniors' Society and reports to the Board of Directors and membership through the President of the NWT Seniors' Society.

3.0 Mandate

The mandate of the NWT Network is to build and maintain networks that eliminate abuse and neglect of older adults throughout the NWT. The document entitled, *Making Connections, Building Networks to Prevent Abuse of Older Adults – A Framework for Action (February 2011)* serves as the basis of the *NWT Network's* mandate. The document *Leading the Way – the Work Continues: Planning a Territorial Network to Prevent Older Adult Abuse (November, 2011)* will also guide the *NWT Network* and its work.

4.0 Vision and Mission of the NWT Network

Vision: *Older adults live in safe, caring communities where there is zero tolerance of abuse and neglect.*

Mission: *Work in partnership and collaboration with older adults and their families, caregivers, service providers, government departments and agencies, aboriginal organizations, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and others to advance the goal and objectives of the NWT Network to achieve its vision.*

5.0 Goal and Objectives

5.1 The **goal** is to establish networks in every region of the NWT which supports activities and strategies that decrease tolerance of abuse and neglect and support older adults to be safe and secure in their homes. The term “homes” includes long term care facilities; extended care; owned or leased private residences; and supported living facilities.

The **objectives** connected with this goal are to:

- Promote education and awareness about abuse of older adults throughout the NWT.
- Support the development of Community and Regional Support Networks to respond to and prevent abuse of older adults.
- Encourage training in identification, intervention and prevention strategies for front-line services providers and caregivers.
- Maintain A communications strategy to address the issue of abuse of older adults throughout the NWT.
- Serve as a resource for information about referral and intervention services in the Northwest Territories.
- Seek funding to continue the work to prevent abuse of older adults
- Establish linkages with other jurisdictions.
- Promote the development of an NWT strategy to prevent abuse of older adults.
- Explore and recommend appropriate legislative, policy and other approaches to address abuse of older adults.
- Promote research into understanding and addressing risk factors and the root causes of abuse and neglect of older adult as well as best practices in program and services THAT support the victim and perpetrator.
- Advocate on behalf of older adults on the issue of abuse and neglect.

5.2 Priority Action Items (2015-2018)

The “*Walking Together*” Conference participants established the following priorities for the NWT Network to focus on over the next three years (2015-2018):

- Education and Awareness (including current communications strategies).
- Proactive Community Programs, Services and Obtain Funding.

- Training of frontline caregivers and service providers, as well as helping older adults.
- Advocating for safe communities, encourage older adult champions to speak out giving older adults a voice to support and advocate.
- Research and funding are required to spread around the NWT communities to do more collaborative research on older adults.

6.0 NWT Network Partners

6.1 Membership on the NWT Network is likely to grow and change. NWT Network partners are encouraged to become members of the NWT Seniors' Society.

- President, NWT Seniors' Society, Fort Smith Seniors' Society
- Representatives from the communities of Hay River, Fort Smith, Fort Providence, Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, Fort Good Hope, Fort Simpson, Tulita, Norman Wells, Fort McPherson, Enterprise, Yellowknife, Dettah/N'dilo, Fort Resolution, Ulukhaktok or any community in the NWT.
- Representatives from the GNWT Department's of Health and Social Services, Justice, and Education Culture and Employment
- Representative from NWT Housing Corporation
- Representative from the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority
- Representative from the YWCA Yellowknife
- Representative from Status of Women Council of the NWT
- Family Violence Co-Ordinator, RCMP, 'G' Division
- Representative from NWT Disabilities Council
- Representative from North Slave Métis Alliance
- Representative from Dene Nation
- Representatives from G'wichin Tribal Council
- Representatives from Inuvialuit Regional Council

6.2 Chair of the NWT Network

The *NWT Network* will be co-chaired by a willing member of the *NWT Network* and the President, NWT Seniors' Society.

NWT Network position/job descriptions will clearly define the Co-Chair responsibilities, including:

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Tel: (867) 920-7444 Fax: (867) 920-7601 Seniors' Information Line: 1-800-661-0878

Email: ed@seniorsnwt.ca; programs@seniorsnwt.ca;

www.nwtnetwork.com

- Taking a leadership role in working with other *NWT Network* partners to achieve long and short term goals;
- Actively establishing the agendas and workload for the NWT Network members;
- Reporting to *NWT Network* partners on the status of *NWT Network* activities;
- Conducting business in an orderly manner at meetings in a way that attends to the agenda, content, and timely and relevant discussion; and
- Ensuring the *NWT Network* partners receive agendas and minutes in a timely manner.

The President of the NWT Seniors' Society and the Co-Chair will jointly speak on behalf of the *NWT Network* to the media.

6.3 Ad Hoc Working Groups of the *NWT Network*

The Co-Chairs and two other members of the *NWT Network* determine the need for a Working Group when a project or action requires research, development and approval projects that may require a timely response.

The Co-Chairs will report to the *NWT Network* at each meeting and may ask for support in special circumstances for the full membership of the *NWT Network*.

6.4 Responsibilities/Expectations

Partners in the *NWT Network* will be expected to:

- Attend all meetings of the *NWT Network* including teleconference and face-to-face meetings.
- Have a high level of engagement in the activities of the *NWT Network*.
- Volunteer to participate in the ongoing work of the NWT Network and share the workload that the *NWT Network* is involved with, as appropriate.
- Take leadership and advocate for change within their organizations and communities to improve responses to, and prevention of older adult abuse.

7.0 Decision Making

Decision-making will be by consensus amongst those partners who attend regularly held tele-conference or face-to-face meetings of the *NWT Network*.

7.1 Quorum

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A simple majority (51%) of *NWT Network* partners as are present at any duly called meeting will constitute a quorum at *NWT Network* meetings. *NWT Network* partners will include the founding partners and any new partners as approved by the membership. The most current membership list will be maintained by the NWT Seniors' Society.

8.0 Support to the *NWT Network*

The NWT Seniors' Society will provide oversight and support services to the *NWT Network* and will continue on a yearly basis unless otherwise determined by the majority of the *NWT Network* membership.

9.0 Meetings of the *NWT Network*

The inaugural meeting of the *NWT Network* was held on Tuesday, December 13, 2011. Meetings are called by the Co-Chairs and will be made known where possible, five (5) working days in advance of the meeting date. The next meeting date will be set at the current meeting. If appropriate funding is secured, there will be at least one face-to-face meeting per year while the remainder of the meetings will be held via tele-conference.

10.0 Term of the *NWT Network*

The Terms of the *NWT Network* group were established in March 2012 and will be replaced following annual reviews as needed and remain in force on an ongoing basis.

11.0 Review of the *NWT Network's* Terms of Reference

The *NWT Network's* Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually or as needed. The next review date will be March, 2016.