



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

AUG 14 2013

Ms. Susan Eng
Vice President Advocacy
Canadian Association of Retired People
30 Jefferson Avenue
Toronto ON M6K 1Y4

Dear Ms. Eng:

Thank you for your letter of July 4, 2013, regarding elder abuse, and for providing me with a copy of Canadian Association of Retired People's (CARP's) Elder Abuse position paper. I understand you have also shared a copy of this position paper, along with other CARP position papers, with the Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Health.

Elder abuse is an important and serious issue, and protecting seniors from abuse is a priority for the Government of British Columbia. As you may be aware, the Government of British Columbia supported and substantially contributed to the proposal to amend Canada's *Criminal Code* to make vulnerability due to age an aggravating factor in sentencing.

We agree that a comprehensive and coordinated response to elder abuse is needed. That is why, in March 2013, the Government of British Columbia released its provincial elder abuse strategy "Together to Reduce Elder Abuse – B.C.s Strategy". The strategy includes short and long term measures to prevent, recognize and respond to elder abuse in British Columbia, including the expansion of the Seniors Abuse and Information Line. This strategy, as well as other elder abuse prevention, recognition and response information and resources, is available at:

www.seniorsbc.ca/elderabuse

The goal of the strategy is to foster a cultural shift in attitude about elder abuse and aging, reducing the prevalence of elder abuse in British Columbia. The strategy serves as a challenge for all British Columbians to help reduce elder abuse through improved recognition, response, coordination and collaboration. Further to a commitment made in the strategy, the Seniors' Directorate, Ministry of Health, will steward cross cross-government action and support a multi-sector Council to Reduce Elder Abuse.

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Ministry of
Justice

Office of the
Minister of Justice
and Attorney General

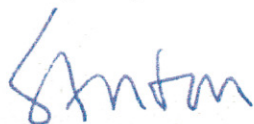
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Ms. Susan Eng
Page 2

Thank you, again, for taking the time to write regarding this important issue.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Anton', is written over the typed name.

Suzanne Anton QC
Attorney General
Minister of Justice

pc: The Honourable Terry Lake