

August 2, 2013

Ms. Susan Eng  
VP Advocacy  
CARP  
30 Jefferson Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario M6K 1Y4

Dear Ms. Eng:

**Re: Violence Against Older Persons**

Thank you for your correspondence dated July 4, 2013 regarding the important topic of violence against older persons and CARP'S new vision of aging for Canada.

The *Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI)* of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador reflects government's commitment to addressing the problem of violence in this province. A multi-media social marketing campaign, Preventing Violence Against Older Persons, was implemented in 2008 to create public awareness and to effect attitudinal change with respect to violence against older persons. The focus of the campaign was on physical, emotional and sexual violence as well as neglect and financial abuse. Government has committed to a Phase II of the *VPI*. Consultations for Phase II have occurred and the information gathered will shape the initiative's second phase spanning 2013-2018.

Detection; investigation and prosecution; and support for older victims of violence are outlined in your correspondence as key priorities for continued action. Phase II of the *VPI* will continue to support strategic priorities to address violence against older persons. The *VPI* in partnership with the Office for Aging and Seniors is developing *Respect Aging: Preventing Violence Against Older Persons*. Education and training materials will be provided to target audiences including law enforcement agencies to increase awareness of and better inform the public about the recognition, prevention and intervention of violence against older persons. The *Neglected Adults Welfare Act* covers neglect and self-neglect. A new *Adult Protection Act*, while not yet proclaimed, has been passed by the House of Assembly. This *Act* will "modernize" the *Neglected Adults Welfare Act* and will include abuse. The intent of the *Act* is to ensure that vulnerable adults are protected from harm while supporting the principle of self-determination. This *Act* will include the provision for emergency intervention and removal of an adult where leaving the adult could result in significant harm.

To achieve the greatest impact, governments and community must work together on this important issue. To ensure a collaborative approach on aging issues and, in particular, to promote violence prevention for older persons, the Department of Justice continues to partner with provincial and federal representatives and community stakeholders. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is committed to continued work on the important issue of violence against older adults as work continues to celebrate and bring awareness to the contributions of older adults within our society.

Thank you for your organizations continued advocacy work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darin T. King". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Darin T. King, PhD  
MHA, District of Grand Bank  
Minister of Justice

c: Minister Susan Sullivan  
Department of Health and Community Services

Minister Charlene Johnson  
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women