



Environment,
Labour and Justice

Environnement,
Travail et Justice



Minister and Attorney General

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July 22, 2013

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

Dear Ms. Eng:

Thank you for your letter of July 4, 2013 raising various issues with regard to elder abuse. I agree that every reasonable measure should be taken to protect this vulnerable sector of our population.

In June of 2012 I met with members of your organization to discuss the topics raised in your letter. This was shortly after the Government of Canada had amended the *Criminal Code* to make the age of the victim an aggravating factor on sentencing. This was an amendment that the Government of Prince Edward Island supported.

There is no requirement in our provincial legislation for mandatory reporting. However the individuals who deal with vulnerable elders (nurses, social workers, doctors, nursing home staff, etc.) have a professional obligation to report potentially abusive situations under different auspices. Our Adult Protection staff advise that voluntary reporting does not diminish the number of calls received. I understand that there has been considerable discussion at the national level about mandatory reporting. Those who work in the field in this province are of the opinion that legislative change to create this obligation is unnecessary.

The provincial Adult Protection Workers, police and Crown Attorneys have the necessary skills to deal with situations as they arise. Training is done as required. Police and Crown resources are utilized in situations where it is believed criminal charges may be justified.

Regarding a national hotline for reporting elder abuse, there is currently a practice in place for complaints of elder abuse received after normal business hours. Police take the elder to the hospital and then Adult Protection staff arrange to see the individual during regular work hours. I am advised that this protocol is working well.

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I am confident that allegations of elder abuse are currently being appropriately managed in this province. Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours very truly,



Janice Sherry
Minister and Attorney General