



## NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Public Guardian and Trustee

### **PGT supports World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

**Vancouver** – Everyone has a role to play in preventing elder abuse. On June 15, 2016, the Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) will join organizations across British Columbia and around the world in marking World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) to raise awareness around the abuse and neglect of elders.

“The PGT fully supports the effort to reduce elder abuse and neglect and to increase the visibility of this serious issue,” said Catherine Romanko, Public Guardian and Trustee. “In our work to protect vulnerable adults over the past year, the PGT continued to be an active member of the Council to Reduce Elder Abuse, serving on both the Financial Abuse Action Group and the Abuse of Older Adults Response Action Group. The PGT also provided input into the development of a new national Elder Abuse Hub hosted by the Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.”

This year the Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse is acknowledging intergenerational initiatives and their role in preventing elder abuse. In support of these important initiatives, the PGT will participate in an interactive workshop provided by the *Elder Abuse in the LGBT Community* project team. The *Elder Abuse in the LGBT Community* project is a collaborative intergenerational initiative funded by the Council to Reduce Elder Abuse that has created a set of videos, posters and fact sheets to raise awareness and address elder abuse in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

WEAAD serves as a call to action for individuals, organizations, and communities to raise awareness about abuse, neglect, and exploitation of elders. The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations (UN) launched WEAAD in an effort to unite communities around the world in raising awareness about elder abuse.

### **About the Public Guardian and Trustee**

The Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) is a corporation sole established under the *Public Guardian and Trustee Act* with a unique statutory role to protect the interests of British Columbians who lack legal capacity to protect their own interests. The mandate of the PGT is to:

- Protect the legal and financial interests of children under the age of 19 years;
- Protect the legal, financial, personal and health care interests of adults who require assistance in decision making; and
- Administer the estates of deceased and missing persons.

For more information see the PGT website at [www.trustee.bc.ca](http://www.trustee.bc.ca).

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