



700 – 808 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6C 3L3 • Phone: (604) 660-4444 • Fax: (604) 660-0374  
[www.trustee.bc.ca](http://www.trustee.bc.ca)

**For immediate release**

**June 12, 2008**

## **Public Guardian and Trustee of BC recognizes World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

Vancouver – The third annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is being recognized on June 15, 2008 by the Public Guardian and Trustee of BC in support of the Proclamation issued by the provincial Cabinet.

Abuse of seniors, financial or otherwise, may involve a wide range of people from strangers to family members. It is estimated that 1 in 12 active seniors in BC experience some form of financial abuse and that 4-10% of BC seniors will experience some form of abuse in their later years.

“I am pleased that the Honourable Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services has supported the third World Elder Abuse Awareness Day,” said Jay Chalke, QC, Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia.

In 2007, the BC Legislature passed the *Adult Guardianship and Planning Statutes Amendment Act*, which will improve BC’s adult protection laws.

“We look forward to proclamation of new Adult Guardianship legislation in BC that will strengthen our ability to protect seniors from abuse,” stated Chalke. “The next step is to develop a national awareness strategy to ensure that the public recognizes elder abuse and knows what steps can be taken to respond effectively.”

These Acts, which are expected to be proclaimed in 2009, will make it easier for health officials and other public agencies to protect seniors.

If you know an adult who may be suffering from abuse, neglect or self-neglect, please call VictimLINK 1.800.563.0808 or visit the Public Guardian and Trustee of BC website [www.trustee.bc.ca](http://www.trustee.bc.ca) and follow the links.

1 backgrounder attached

### **About the Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia:**

The Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia provides services to approximately 32,000 clients and manages more than \$700 million in trust assets. Its mandate is to serve adults who require assistance in decision-making through the protection of their legal rights, financial interests and personal care interests, children

and youth by protecting their legal and financial interests and heirs and beneficiaries of deceased.

Media: Cindy Connor  
Communications Officer  
Tel: 604.660.4474