



**Statement from the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC)
on
World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2026**

On June 15, 2026, we mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), a global call to protect the rights, dignity, and safety of older adults and to take action against all forms of elder abuse.

This year's WEAAD theme, "**Be Bold: Age with Attitude**," celebrates the strength, wisdom, and resilience of older adults while affirming their right to live free from abuse, neglect, and discrimination.

Elder abuse is any action or inaction that harms or threatens an older adult's well-being, including violations of their right to live safely, be treated with respect, and make decisions about their own lives and affairs. It often involves someone in a position of trust. Abuse can affect older adults of any ability or level of independence, which makes awareness, prevention, and community education essential.

The NCWC is committed to advancing the well-being, safety, and dignity of all older women and seniors. To that end, and in keeping with the Common Theme, NCWC will host a special educational event in early December directed towards seniors focused on how to stay safe online, recognize and avoid scams, and build confidence using digital tools and artificial intelligence. The timing is intentional, as the holiday season is traditionally a period when online fraud and scam activity increase. The session will feature **Varsha Vaishali** of Cyber Harassment Support and will provide practical guidance on digital safety and online protection.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: NCWC also encourages member organizations and community groups to explore current government funding opportunities for community projects that encourage senior volunteering, mentoring, elder abuse awareness, social participation, and capital improvements to help seniors stay engaged and included.

[The Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program](#) is currently accepting applications for community-based projects from June 2 to July 14, 2026, with grants of up to \$50,000 available for eligible organizations.

Respectfully,

Penny Rankin
NCWC President

For more information – please take note of the resources below:

- [Statistics Canada - Violence against seniors \(2019\)](#)
- [Government of Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre:](#)
- [Public Health Canada - Elder Abuse:](#)
- [CanAge.ca](#)
- [International Longevity Centre Canada](#)
- [Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse:](#)
- [OHCHR Older Persons and Human Rights:](#)