

# SUNDRE COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE



*“Together Taking Action Against Elder Abuse”*

September 2016 – June 2017 Coordinator Shoshannah Brechtel

## Annual General Meeting Report 2017



### THE NEED

- This year, for the first time in Canadian history, there are **more people over the age of 65 than there are people ages 0-14** due to longer life spans and fewer births.
- The “Baby Boomer” is aging. **The number of Alberta seniors is projected to double and reach one million by 2032**, when nearly 1 in 5 Albertan will be over the age of 65, with one Albertan turning 65 every 19 minutes.
- **Sundre is home to a very large number of seniors**, over 11% greater than the provincial average per capita. We are considered a retirement community with more people moving in.
- Studies suggest **up to 10% of seniors will be experiencing a form of abuse**. The abuse of older adults is now known to be the most under reported crime around the globe, and even more unseen in rural communities.
- **The Alberta Government sees the need for action to prevent and address elder abuse and has provided funding** via the Coordinated Community Response Grant Program to prevent and address elder abuse at the community level.
- **Greenwood Neighborhood Place**, servicing hundreds of seniors each year, **sees the relevance and need to create a Coordinated Community Response against Elder Abuse** and has taken full advantage of this grant funding.



*“ Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”*  
MARGARET MEAD

### DEFINITION OF ELDER ABUSE

*Any action or inaction inflicted by others in a position of trust, power, or responsibility, which jeopardizes the health or well being of an older adult.*

*This abuse can take several forms, including, but not limited to: financial, sexual, physical, spiritual, psychological, emotional, systemic abuse, and neglect.*

~As created and defined by the Sundre CCR Committee

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF SUNDRE CCR?

Our Sundre Coordinated Community Response is a network of representatives from local organizations and agencies committed to collaborative partnerships to prevent Elder Abuse in the Sundre area. **We recognize that to address elder abuse in a meaningful way, all sectors of our community must work together, including governments, service providers, businesses and individuals.** As agencies and individuals we will leverage our individual services, experience, expertise, and knowledge, in order develop and provide Sundre and area older adults with:

- **The creation of a local contact point for those impacted by elder abuse. Including a sustainable response system, offering effective coordination of local direct and supportive services.**
- **Increased safety and security of older adults in the Sundre area.**
- **Cross-sector education, awareness, and protocol development so ALL parts of the community can help prevent, identify and respond effectively to elder abuse in our community.**
- **A more “age friendly community” developed through education, awareness and action.**

*“This issue must be dealt with by every part of our community. All community members must be made aware and educated. All businesses, all staff, everyone, there is no other way!” ~Sundre CCR Committee Member*

## VALUED CCR PARTNERS

- Alberta Health Services Continuing Care Coordinator
- Sundre Home Care Manager
- Sundre Hospital Site Manager
- Alberta Treasury Branch Manager
- Chinook Edge Victim Services Coordinator
- Sundre RCMP Mediator/Facilitator
- Sundre RCMP Detachment Commander
- Sundre FCSS Senior Services Coordinator
- MVSH Drop-In Center Coordinator
- Kutz Skorodenski Law Firm Lawyer/Owners
- Alberta Health Services Community Health Facilitator
- Sundre Family Pharmacy Owner & Pharmacist and Sundre Community Drug Mart Pharmacist/Manager
- AHS Mental Health Recreation Therapist
- AHS Mental Health Psychiatric Nurse
- Primary Care Network Social Worker
- GNP Board Members
- Sundre Museum Exec. Director & Volunteer
- Sundre Library Manager
- Sundre Ministerial Pastor
- MVCALS Community Outreach Coordinator
- Sundre Senior Population Reps
- Retired Geriatric Physiotherapist
- Nursing Home Owner/Operator
- Scams and Fraud Trainer

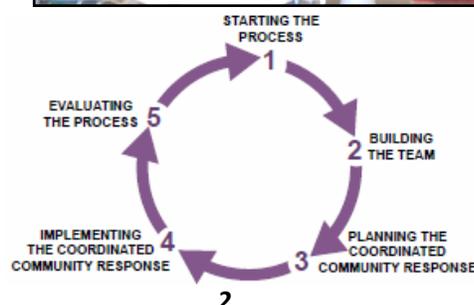
## SUNDRE COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE COMMITTEE FORMATION

The recruitment of Key Stakeholders to sit on the Sundre CCR Committee has gone very well. Having started recruiting in November, and still ongoing, we currently have 26 Committee Members. All of these service providers have an invested interest in the community and strongly see the need for this response in their own organizations. GNP is honored and privileged to work alongside such amazing area professionals!

Recruitment will continue throughout the development of the CCR as the need for other agencies is revealed. Sub-Committees will be developed and utilized to form and complete portions of the project.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Successful development of Coordinated Community Response Committee with well attended monthly meetings.
- Formal training to more than 65% of Committee Members in Government of Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness and increased awareness of issue among community service providers.
- Agreement with much passion among members, that Sundre needs a CCR against Elder Abuse thereby creating committed stakeholders. Memorandum of Understanding underway.
- Elder Abuse definition discussed and created specific to our community, the response we desire, and grant requirements.
- Sundre CCR has created what seems to be the first complete definition of Systemic Abuse worldwide.
- Initial draft stages of community resource inventory compiled.
- Seniors Week and World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in partnership with Sundre FCSS Adult Programming.
- Proclamation for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Sundre by Sundre Mayor and Council.



## TESTIMONIALS OF ELDER ABUSE

“A frail elderly lady lived with her son in her home. She appeared malnourished, unkempt and presented as having either cognitive or mental health issues. There was no evidence of meal preparation or basic homemaking routines. However, she assured others that her son was taking good care of her despite strong evidence to the contrary. He fully supported her refusal to accept medical involvement. He had no income, and it was apparent his continuing to live in the home was contingent upon her remaining there.”

~ Sundre CCR Committee Member

Greenwood has just received word that we are approved for a 2nd year of funding! Sundre is the only community in Mountain View County to create CCR against EA and hopes to become the rural model!