



City of Spruce Grove Proclamation World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

June 15, 2024

WHEREAS; the United Nations recognizes June 15th annually as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day to raise awareness about the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue throughout the world; and

WHEREAS; older adults in our community deserve to be treated with respect and dignity, and valued for their wisdom and the vital role they play in contributing to society and our community; and

WHEREAS; elder abuse is an underreported and global problem that impacts seniors worldwide, regardless of their cultural or socio-economic background; and

WHEREAS; ageism and social isolation are major causes of the abuse of older adults, and the population of people over the age of 65 is rising faster than other groups in Alberta; and

WHEREAS; understanding what constitutes abuse and neglect will support the development of awareness and action; and

WHEREAS; elder abuse encompasses physical, emotional, sexual, medicinal and financial exploitation, neglect, and abandonment, and while the experience of each individual is unique and impacted by other factors such as gender, sex, race, ethnicity, or religion, all can have severe impacts on the well-being of seniors; and

WHEREAS; there are enthusiastic community members within the Tri-Municipal Region who are dedicated to creating safety for older adults in our community, such as the Tri-Region Elder Abuse Coordinated Community Response; and

WHEREAS; it is our collective responsibility as citizens and as a community to recognize and respond to the signs of elder abuse and create an environment that respects the rights and dignity of older adults to ensure their safety and quality of life;

THEREFORE, I, Jan Gillett, Councillor of the City of Spruce Grove, do hereby proclaim the 15th day of June 2024 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in the City of Spruce Grove, and encourage citizens to look for opportunities to educate themselves about elder abuse and promote elder rights and protection.