

*Research News and Views is a webpage that houses information about current study reports, articles, news items, commentaries and other material relevant to research in long term care*  
<http://www.oltca.com/en/research/newsandviews.html>

*September 2006*

### **Promising Approaches to Preventing Abuse in Congregate Settings**

The Public Health Agency's National Population Health Fund has funded a project aimed at advancing the level of knowledge among health care professionals, key community organizations and policy makers in Canada about current approaches being used to address the abuse and neglect of older adults, where it may exist, in congregate settings such as personal care homes, assisted living, nursing and long term care homes, retirement communities and "campuses of care". The national, two-year project, entitled "A Way Forward: Promoting Promising Approaches to Abuse Prevention in Institutional Settings", is a collaborative effort of the Institute for Life Course and Aging at the University of Toronto, working with partners from six universities, as well as with community and long term care stakeholders. The Institute is a research and teaching centre with a mandate to undertake multidisciplinary research from a health and social science perspective on human development, the life course and aging.

The two year project involves a national survey of key stakeholders as well as regional forums which will be held in Quebec, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Ontario, and Alberta. The project will develop:

- Baseline information on the current state of development for preventing and addressing abuse or neglect situations occurring in congregate settings (a national snapshot of "where things currently stand in Canada")
- Emerging promising practices and guiding principles re: abuse prevention.

The project is anticipated to result in increased knowledge about life and work in congregate settings, as well as promising approaches to support seniors' wellbeing in such settings. Information from the project, along with inventories/ resource lists of existing abuse prevention education, fact sheets, and special reports on emerging best practices, will be shared through health care professionals networks, seniors and other key advocacy groups via reports, community, business, academic and professional articles, websites, conferences and other venues.

*For more information on "A Way Forward", visit the project website at [www.elderabuse.utoronto.ca](http://www.elderabuse.utoronto.ca) or contact the Project Coordinator, Dana Howse, at [dana.howse@utoronto.ca](mailto:dana.howse@utoronto.ca)*