

Seniors' Legal Planning Information Kit Project

The Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia (LISNS), which provides Nova Scotians with the legal information they need, when they need it, and the Nova Scotia Centre on Aging (NSCA), which uses its expertise in the field of aging to help improve the lives of older persons, have partnered to develop a Seniors' Legal Planning Information Kit. The project is funded by Human Resources and Social Development Canada's (HRSDC's) New Horizons Program.

Although specifically directed towards seniors and their caregivers, the project will also be of interest to concerned relatives and friends, educators and decision makers, community volunteers and social agencies, enforcement agencies, and all others who provide services to seniors.

The objective of the project is to increase seniors' awareness and knowledge of the issues to be considered when planning and arranging their legal affairs in order to help protect seniors against financial abuse, fraud, and exploitation. The project will seek to ensure that a large number of seniors and their family members become better informed and prepared, resulting in a safer environment for seniors, which should ultimately benefit all Nova Scotians.

The focus of this project is seniors in Nova Scotia because most of the relevant legal issues are under provincial jurisdiction; however, the project will provide a model which may be used in other provinces/jurisdictions.

The Seniors' Legal Planning Information Kit project will:

1. Develop and test a Seniors' Legal Planning Information Kit, which will contain complete and comprehensive information in an accessible format for a variety of audiences. The Kit, as well as the test kit and promotional materials will be available in both official languages. The Kit will also be available on-line.
2. Conduct free province-wide information sessions across Nova Scotia in order to introduce and disseminate the Kit to seniors, caregivers, families, and others providing services to seniors.
3. Produce a video of an information session to reach those who cannot participate in the information sessions.
4. Create promotional materials informing communities of the Kit's availability and of its effective use for different audiences and mount a multi-media awareness campaign around the Kit.
5. Develop a model for use by other jurisdictions wanting to develop their own Seniors' Legal Planning Information Kit and awareness campaign.

The Kit is expected to be ready for distribution in the spring of 2010. For further information, please contact the Project Officer for the Seniors' Legal Planning Information Kit at seniorsinfo@legalinfo.org.

For further information on the project partners, please visit their websites: www.legalinfo.org (LISNS) and www.msvu.ca/nsca (NSCA).