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POLICE SERVICES BOARD

DATE March 11, 2017.

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CHIEF OF POLICE

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PEEL POLICE SERVICES BOARD

DATE MARCH 15, 2017

LOG No. 226

FILE CLASS 201

#50

REPORT  
Police Services Board  
For Information

File Class: 1-02-02-03

Cross-Reference File Class: 3-03-08-06

DATE: February 16, 2017

SUBJECT: **ELDER ABUSE AND VULNERABLE ADULT ANNUAL REPORT**

FROM: Deputy Chief Brian Adams

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the report be forwarded to the Police Services Board in accordance with annual reporting requirements.**

**REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- In 2016, one hundred and fifty one (151) incidents of Elder Abuse were reported to Peel Regional Police (29 % increase from 2015).
- The Elder Abuse Coordinator delivered thirty one (31) presentations to 1344 persons including police officers, police communicators and community groups.
- The Elder Abuse Coordinator provided 509 consultations (86% increase from 2015) and 317 referrals to Social Services, Public Guardian and Trustee, and Criminal Investigations (107% increase from 2015).
- In 2016, Project Lifesaver program equipment was used as a component in the overall effort to assist in eight (8) missing/wandering person occurrences.
- Thirty-two (32) new officers were certified as Project Lifesaver Electronic Search Operators.

**DISCUSSION**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

This report provides information on the mandate of the Elder Abuse and Vulnerable Adult Coordinator, and the number of investigations entered into relating to Elder Abuse and Vulnerable Adult Abuse in adherence to Ontario Policing Standards LE-021. Peel Regional

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Police (PRP) internal directive 1-B-701 (F) additionally provides instructions and guidelines for all members.

*Role of the PRP Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Coordinator*

- Act as a consultant and/or resource to members of this service and the community, including victims and their families (509 in 2016).
- Establish and maintain a liaison with internal police bureaux including frauds and criminal investigations. Liaise with other police agencies, family and criminal justice agencies, community and social agencies, the Coroner's office, and Victim Services.
- Coordinate training programs, conduct lectures, and disseminate information to the members of this service in relation to elder abuse.
- Maintain the Project Lifesaver Program in collaboration with the Region of Peel Coordinator. This includes updating the website and coordinating training for certification of operators. Effective Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 the responsibility was transferred from the Community Support Bureau to Emergency Support Services, PRP.
- Maintain Vulnerable Person's Registry. Effective Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 this responsibility was transferred to Emergency Support Services.
- Review all police occurrences involving elder and vulnerable persons.

*Demographics*

The joint census population statistics for the cities of Brampton and Mississauga reveal a marked increase in residency of senior citizens. From 2006 to 2011 the number of seniors increased by 76%. (2016 age related population census statistics will be available in May 2017.)

Census 2006		Census 2011	
Total population	1,198,854	Total population	1,237,354
Persons 60 +	165,325	Persons 60 +	291,430

Source: Region of Peel Planning Department

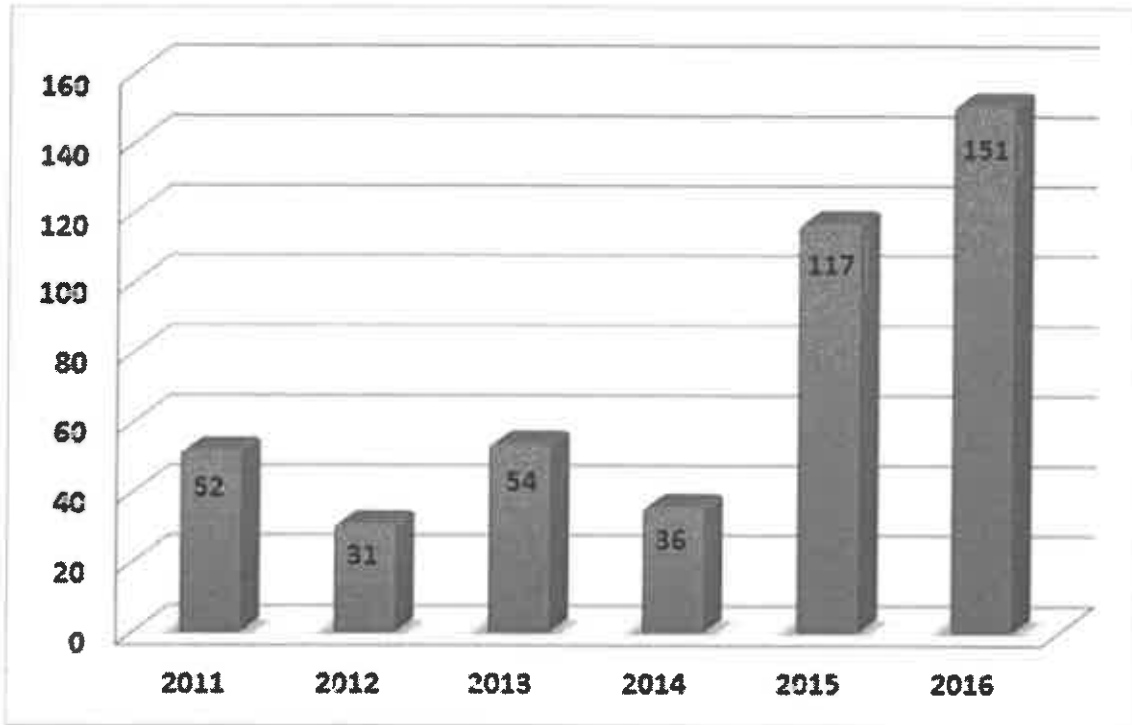
The Peel Elder Abuse Prevention Network recently reported that the number of seniors in the Region of Peel is increasing at three times the rate of the rest of Ontario and Canada. The Sheridan Centre for Elder Research reports that approximately 74% of Peel Region's population aged 65+ is immigrant older adults. This is considerably higher than the Ontario figure of 44% and the Canadian national figure of approximately 30%.

## 2. FINDINGS

Between January 01, 2016 and December 31, 2016 there was a significant increase in the number of elder abuse cases reported to police.

This increase is attributable to both the rapidly aging population of our community and the continued efforts to encourage reporting of abuse. The delivery of educational programs providing information to civilians and community organizations in regards to Elder Abuse has increased awareness.

**In 2016 there were one hundred and fifty one (151) incidents reported to police.**



Of the 151 incidents reported in 2016, twenty nine (29) cases were cleared by charge. Seventy five (75) were solved but deemed non-criminal. Eight (8) were unsolved, seventeen (17) were unfounded and nineteen (19) cases remain open investigations.

The Elder Abuse Coordinator reviews every occurrence where the victim/complainant is listed as being over the age of 65 and in turn, liaises with the assigned investigative bureau to provide support and/or information as may be required.

#### Responding to changing demographics

PRP has initiated organizational restructuring intended to better coordinate efforts in response to changing demographics.

As of January 2017 the Elder Abuse Coordinator position moved from Operations Support, Special Victims Unit to Field Support Services, Diversity and Community Support Bureau. The coordinator will now be managed under the same supervisory umbrella as the Community Mobilization Unit (HUB), the Crisis Outreach Assessment and Support Team (COAST) Unit, Crime Prevention Services and Diversity. This is a working relationship better suited to aid in the development of proactive initiatives that contribute to long term solutions in helping to protect the elderly; including, the integration of senior citizen focused presentations to the varied Chief's advisory committees that represent our diverse communities; and, ensuring a reciprocal exchange of practical information with an end to protect all seniors while respecting cultural background.

### Presentations

In 2016, the Elder Abuse Coordinator delivered thirty-one (31) presentations with an end to increase awareness and improve understanding. Internally, lectures were directed at front line and Communications Bureau staff. Externally, presentations were made available to varied members of our community including long term care service providers, residents, care-givers, elders living in their own home, volunteers, community agency workers and neighborhood associations.

In total, 1,344 citizens and police officers from PRP were educated as to the issues surrounding elder and vulnerable persons abuse. Included internally were training sessions for newly promoted personnel along with Communications Bureau and Records Bureau staff; related information was also incorporated into the Advanced Patrol Training course and the Project Lifesaver training program.

### Elder Abuse Committee Involvement

The Elder Abuse Coordinator sits on ten (10) committees in the community that impact elder and vulnerable person's issues:

- Law Enforcement Agencies Protecting Seniors (L.E.A.P.S.) – Member
- Peel Vulnerable Adults working group - Member
- Peel Elder Abuse Prevention Network (P.E.A.P.N.) - Member
- Project Lifesaver – Committee member and police liaison (tracking device that assists in the location of vulnerable persons suffering from Dementia, Alzheimer's, Autism, brain injury and developmental delay)
- Project Lifesaver Regional Steering Committee – Member
- Adult Injury Prevention Network (A.I.P.N.) – Member (comprised of representatives from local community agencies with an interest in protecting seniors and vulnerable persons. Agencies include: Region of Peel Health, Distress Centre Peel, Spectra Care Services; and Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga Fire Departments)
- Brampton Senior Council
- Community Transitions Work Group – Halton/ Peel Local Health Integrated Network (L.H.I.N.)
- Peel Elder Abuse Prevention Network Management Team (P.E.A.P.N)
- Law Enforcement Agencies Protecting Seniors (L.E.A.P.S) Education and Training Committee – designing training courses for the Ontario Police College

### Educational / Marketing Events

The existence of the Elder Abuse Coordinator position is advertised in "Savvy Seniors of Peel" a bi-annual magazine produced by Crime Prevention Services. The magazine is distributed to community partner organizations and at presentations. The Coordinator attends, in a supporting role, a number of educational/marketing events hosted by the various community agencies. For 2016, examples include:

- Flower City Seniors Council
- Alzheimer's Society "U-First"
- P.E.A.P.N. Safe Housing

- P.E.A.P.N. Systems Mapping
- Flower City Seniors
- World Elder Abuse Prevention Day

### Project Lifesaver

Project Lifesaver Peel is a partnership between the Region of Peel, the Peel Regional Police and the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police helping families protect vulnerable members who may have a tendency to wander. Utilizing equipment funded by the Region, the program equips participating individuals living with cognitive impairment with a wrist-transmitter that emits a radio tracking signal within a two kilometre radius. When notified by caregivers that the individual is missing, specially trained law enforcement officers use the mobile tracking equipment to assist in locating the person.

During 2016, ninety-five (95) Project Lifesaver client profiles were reviewed and updated; on eight (8) occasions Peel Police utilized the program locator devices as part of a missing person investigation; at year end there were 105 families/persons registered as Project Lifesaver participants within the Region of Peel. (Not including O.P.P. connected participants.)

In 2016 the Region of Peel initiated a comprehensive review of the Project Lifesaver Program, at the direction of Regional Council. The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the cost benefit of the program, determine if the program outcomes are being achieved, and to identify the future role for the Region of Peel in terms of wandering persons. The assessment of this program is ongoing.

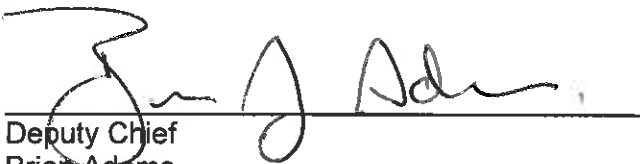
### **FINANCIAL**

The information contained in the annual report has no noteworthy financial impact.

### **CONCLUSION**

As the percentage of reported Elder Abuse continues to rise in the Region of Peel, the Elder Abuse Coordinator and Peel Regional Police will, in collaboration with community partners, endeavor to provide resources and education to address this complex issue.

### **Approved for Submission:**



Deputy Chief  
Brian Adams

*For further information regarding this report, please contact Inspector Magdi YOUNAN at extension 3609 or via e-mail at [magdi.younan@peelpolice.ca](mailto:magdi.younan@peelpolice.ca)*

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