Break the Silence – Giving a Voice Back to Abused Seniors
Using Assisted Communication Elder Abuse Assessment

Presenters:

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Workshop:

When elder abuse occurs and someone has the ability to speak they can report and seek assistance. Seniors who may not be able to speak, having suffered Stroke, Parkinson's disease and other illness which impede communication are more vulnerable and it is difficult if not impossible to report abuse. Assisted communication has been used to give people voice. By developing and utilizing our assisted communication elder abuse screening tool we enable non-verbal abused seniors to tell their story.

Through this presentation attendees will have a thorough understanding of common indicators of elder abuse. The history of assisted and augmented communication techniques will be covered along with the history of the development of this assessment tool through focus groups conducted across Canada. Utilizing case examples the presenters will demonstrate the effectiveness of using an assisted communication elder abuse assessment to stop abuse and assist seniors to be safe. Demonstrating the tool using roll playing will better enable the participants to learn how to use the tool themselves in their own practice with seniors. All participants will be provided with a link to access and download the tool for their use as needed. Further work has been done in translating the tool into 7 other languages to allow workers to use the tool to enable seniors who do not speak English to report abuse without the use of an interpreter.

Outcomes:
- Identify indicators of elder abuse amongst non-verbal seniors
- History of using assisted tools to communicate beyond language barriers
- Demonstrate use of tool to assess elder abuse in practice.