

them, to defend them, to help them speak out, to be by their side, to support them, to represent them at various stages—from start to finish...”<sup>85</sup>

Michael Stones agreed: “We do need something like a series of elder abuse or elder mistreatment, or whatever you want to call it, health agencies in the same way that we have shelters or personal advocacy groups for women who are in trouble. We don’t have anywhere for the older folks to go.”<sup>86</sup> As he noted, the seniors resource centres currently in place in Newfoundland were dealing with issues of elder abuse although they require additional resources and training to do this in an adequate way.

Pearl McKenzie of North Shore Community Services recommended the development of advocacy services to meet several needs of the elderly: access to information about rights, services and benefits that enable them to live independently; assistance for victims; responsiveness of other services and the justice system; and a place where the older person’s voice is heard.<sup>87</sup>

The Advocacy Centre for the Elderly in Toronto is one organization that offers this type of support. In addition to providing specialized legal services for the elderly, the Centre’s staff work with service providers in the existing system. They provide education to lawyers who don’t do their jobs in explaining how powers of attorney work to seniors and provide education to doctors, to nurses, to other service providers as to how the laws work and how they themselves sometimes discriminate against seniors.<sup>88</sup>

The Committee members were impressed by these varied approaches to establishing necessary advocacy services for older Canadians.

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<sup>85</sup> Couture, 4:23.

<sup>86</sup> Stones, 6:16.

<sup>87</sup> McKenzie, 8:10.

<sup>88</sup> Wahl, 5:27.