PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO ELDER ABUSE IN THE FOOTHILLS

A PRESENTATION
BY

THE FOOTHILLS ELDER ABUSE COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE (CCR) STEERING COMMITTEE

ROWAN HOUSE SOCIETY
BUILDING VIOLENCE FREE COMMUNITIES

Alberta Health Services

Primary Care Network
CALGARY RURAL

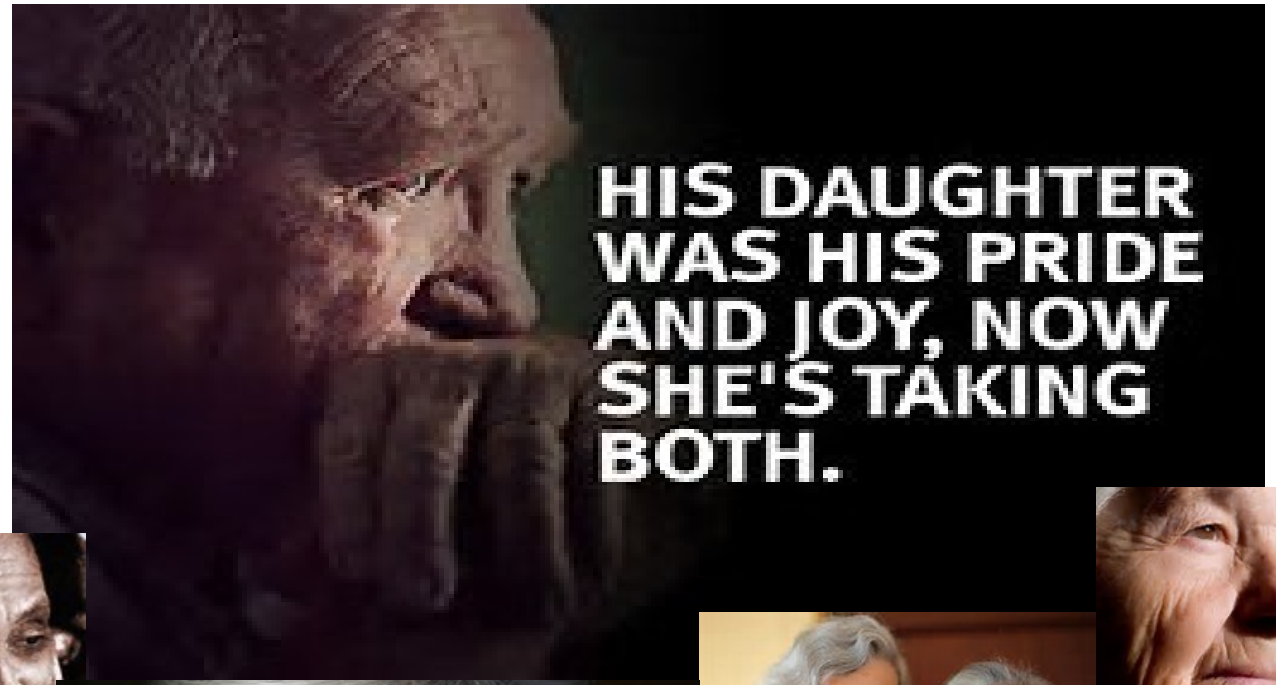
FOOTHILLS REGIONAL VICTIM SERVICES

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

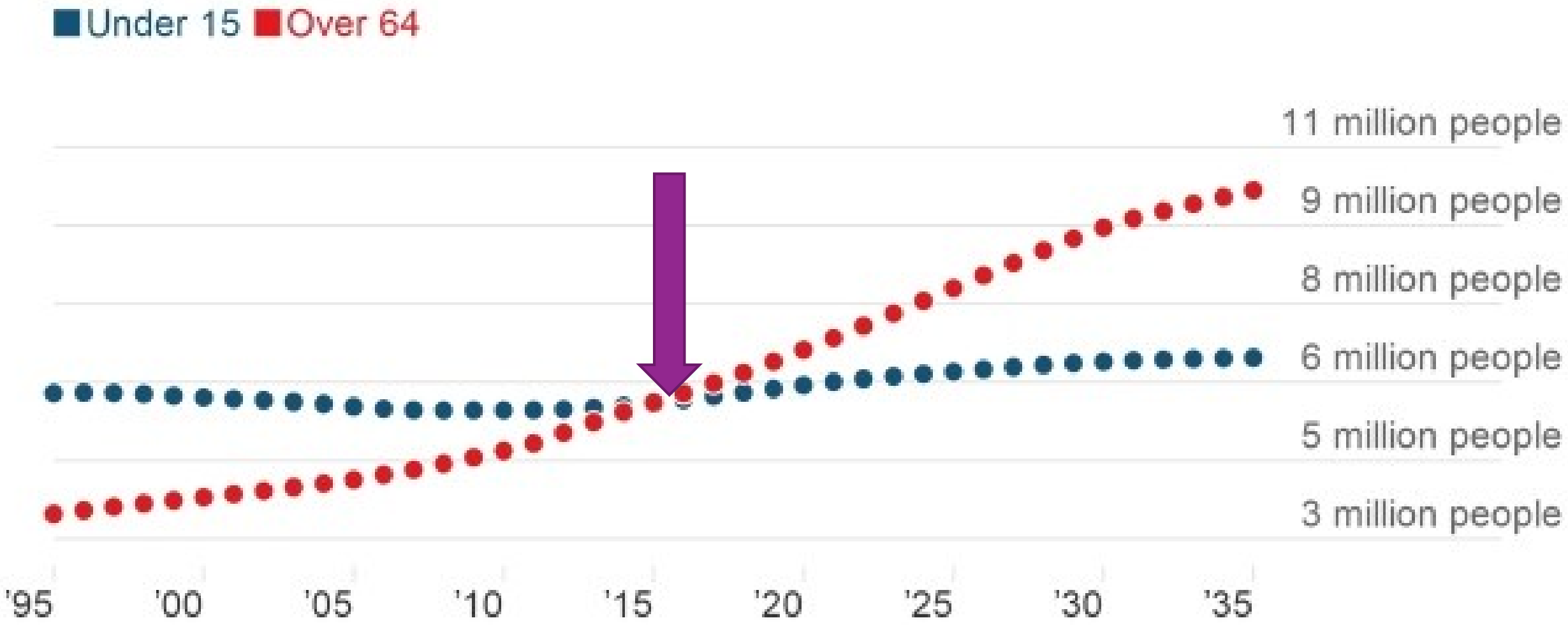
FCSS Family and Community Support Services
Black Diamond
High River
MD of Foothills
Okotoks
Turner Valley

Westwinds Communities

Background: Why Now?



Canada now has more seniors than kids under 15

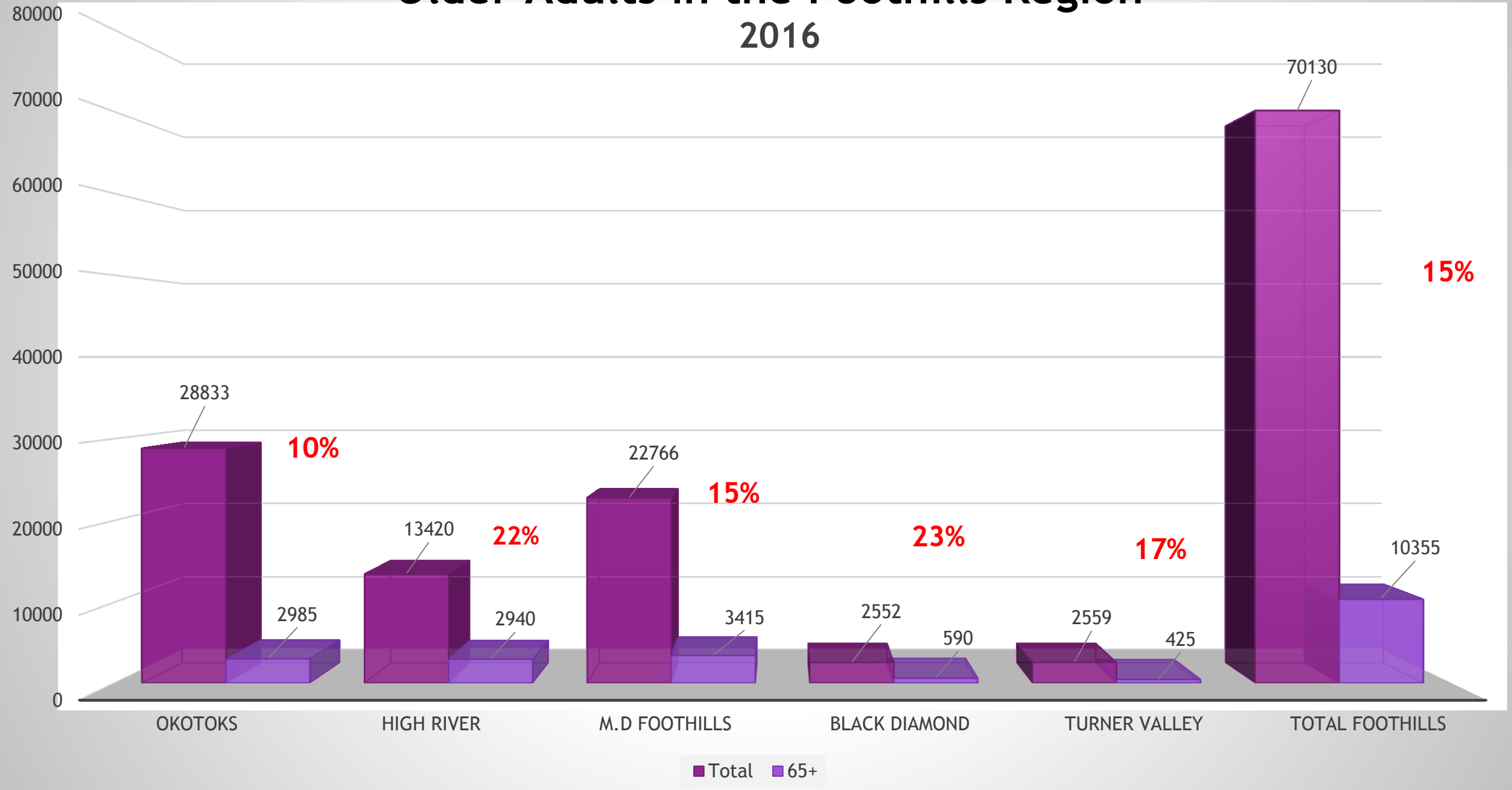


Source: Statistics Canada

Made with Chartbuilder

Older Adults in the Foothills Region

2016



What does this mean for Older Adults in the Foothills

- With an incident rate of 8% and 70,000 in the Foothills Region…..

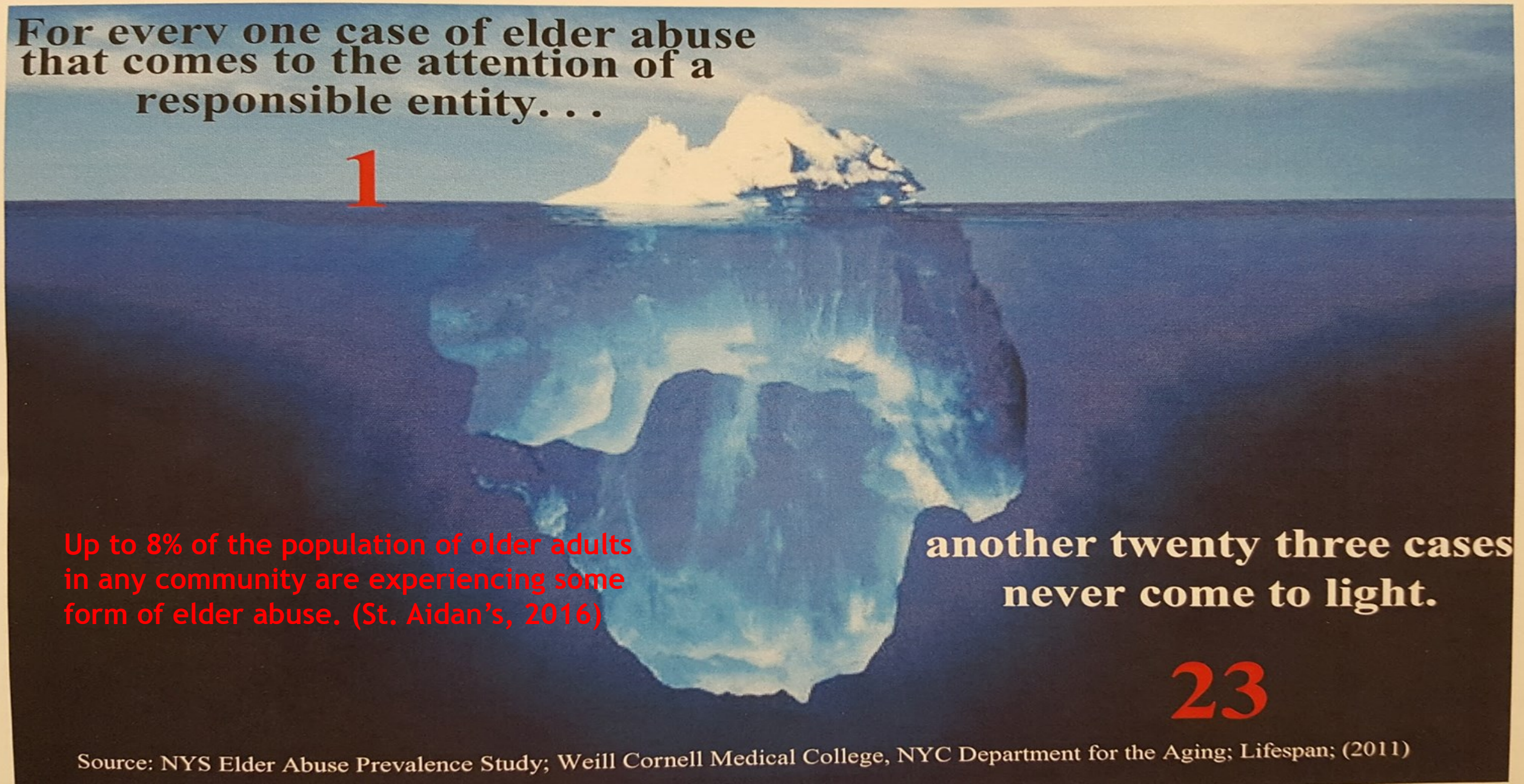
- An estimated 5,600 people aged 65+ are experiencing some form of elder abuse in the Foothills Region.

Family Violence in Canada: 2015 Statistical Profile

- Of the 10 Canadian provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta had the highest number of senior victims of police reported family violence.

- The rate of family violence against seniors living in urban area was lower than for those living in rural communities.

Elder Abuse: Under the Radar



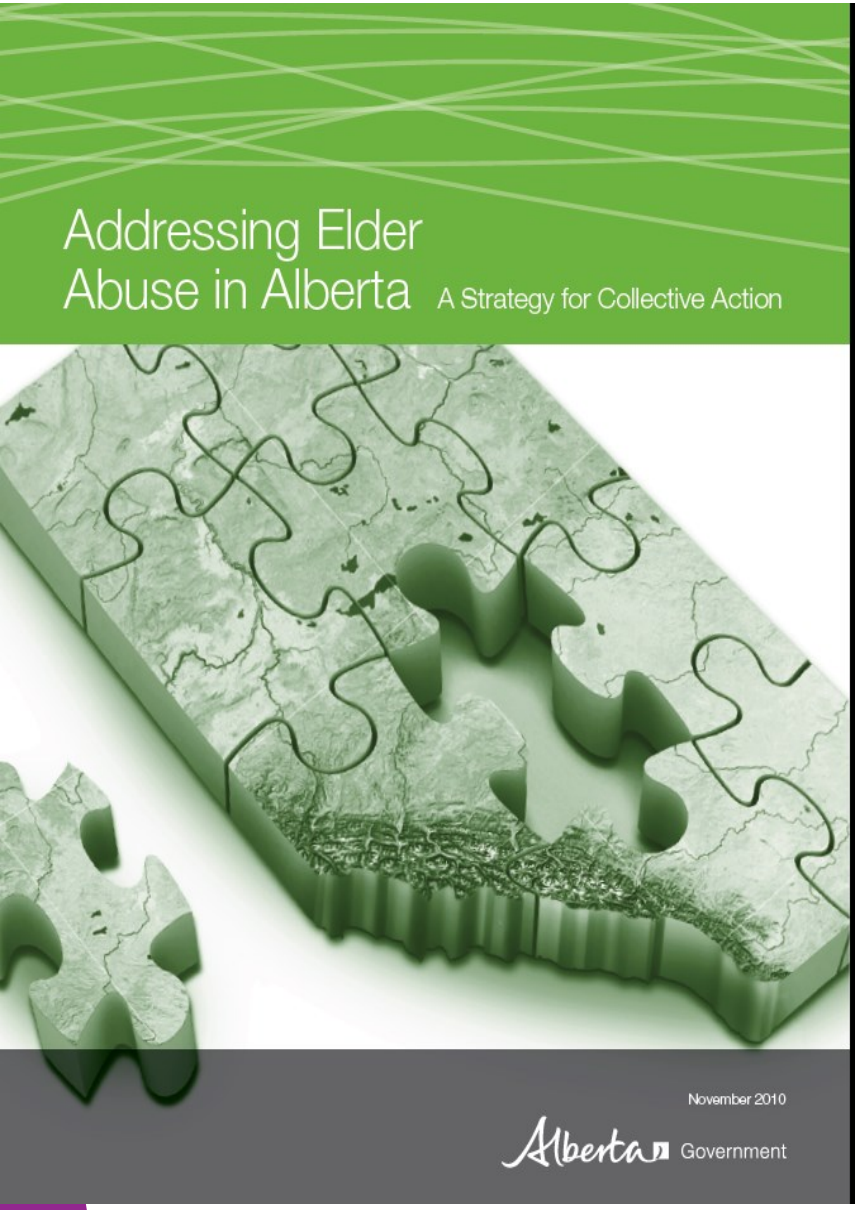
Up to 8% of the population of older adults in any community are experiencing some form of elder abuse. (St. Aidan's, 2016)

Whose Business Is It?

- Elder abuse is everyone's business.
- Older adults deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.
- We all have shared responsibility to respond in preventing and addressing elder abuse.

ITS TIME TO TAKE ACTION

Addressing Elder Abuse in Alberta

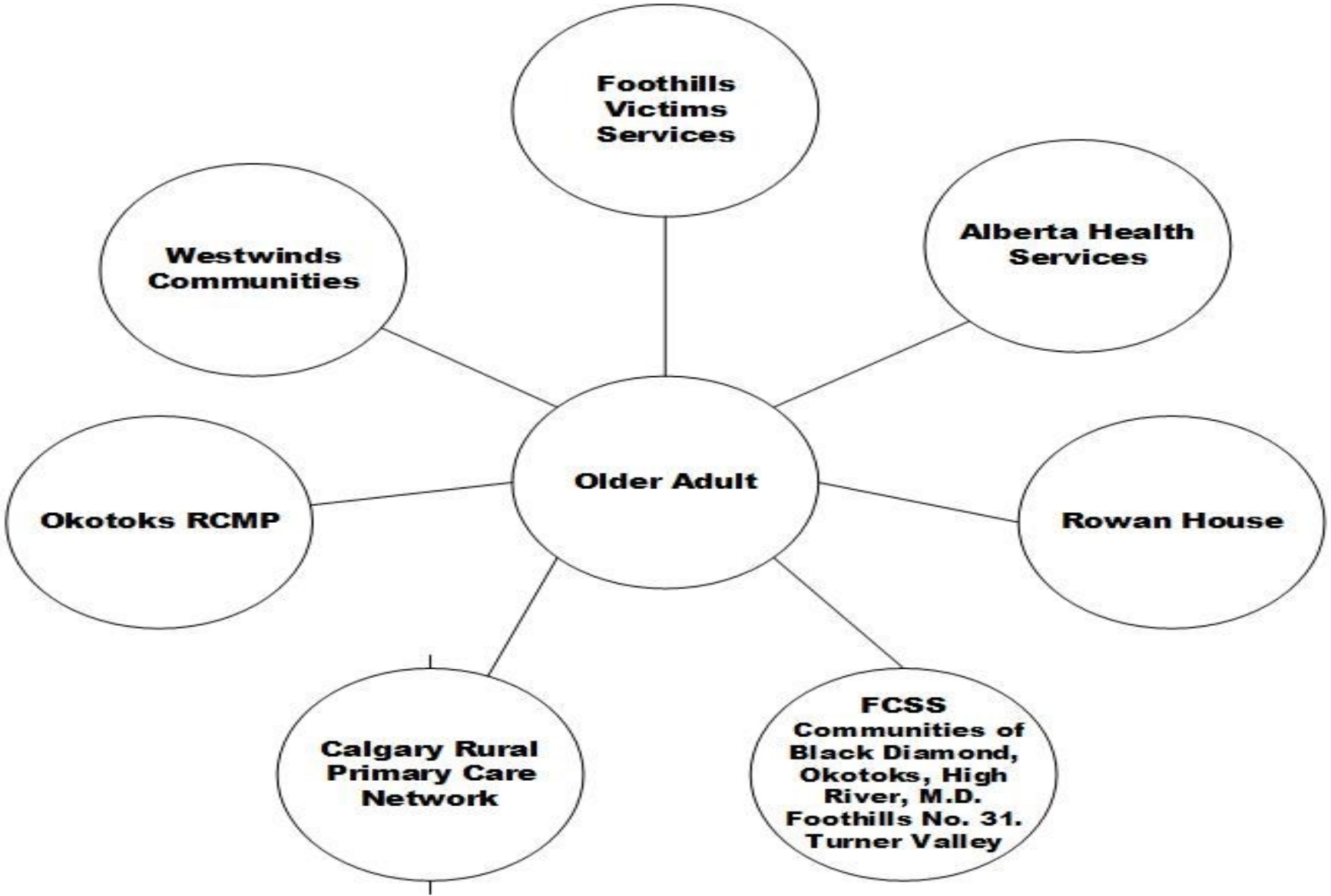


Alberta Government 2010 Strategy for Collective Action:

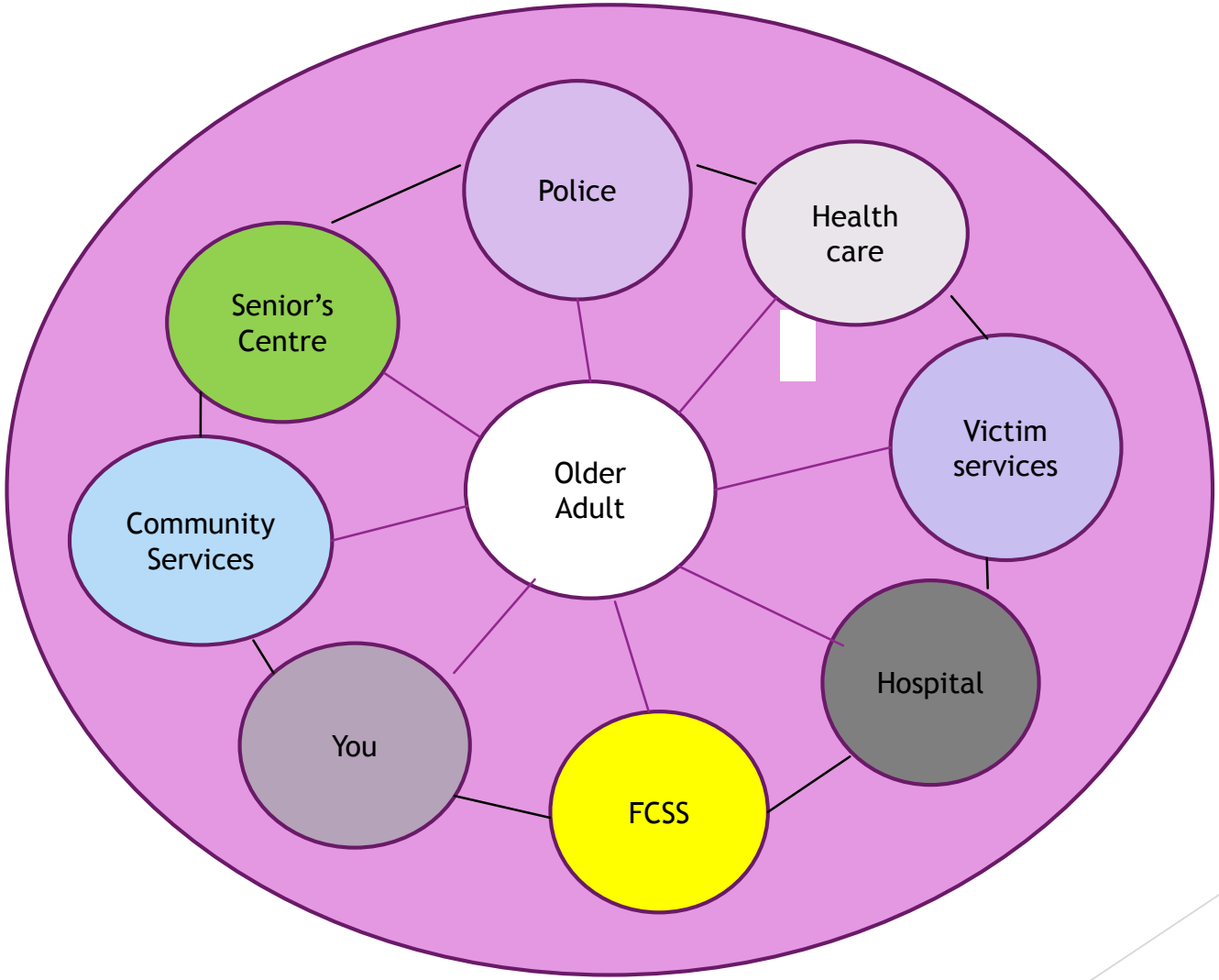
- *Goal 3: Develop Coordinated Community Response Models (CCR)*

- The Town of Okotoks obtained 3-year funding received from Alberta Seniors and Housing: *Taking Action Against Elder Abuse Coordinated Community Response Grant Program.*

Foothills Elder Abuse CCR Steering Committee



Coordinated Community Response Model



What is the Expected Results?

- A response to elder abuse that is rooted in collaborative partnerships.
- Ability to leverage current knowledge, services and expertise of multiple service organizations and individuals.
- More effective and efficient approaches to addressing elder abuse.

Foothills Elder Abuse Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Model

Vision

Older adults in Okotoks, High River, Turner Valley, Black Diamond and the M.D. Foothills No. 31 live in a safe, caring and responsive community where their rights, dignity and well-being is valued and they are free from abuse and neglect.

Elder Abuse

A single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person.

Elder can take several forms including: Physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, spiritual, financial and material abuse, abandonment, neglect and serious loss of dignity

(World Health Organization definition adapted to include spiritual abuse)

Who Are We Talking About?

- A person 65+ years of age,
- Any age exceptions are determined on a case-by-case basis.

We all have shared responsibility in preventing and responding to elder abuse,

Therefore

All professionals, individuals and families need to be aware of how to identify elder abuse, respond and where to get help.