



## Research on mistreatment of older adults in Quebec:

summaries of scientific articles



### Independent living and the Mistreatment of Older Adults with a Disability: a Respectful Approach.

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#### REFERENCE

Plourde, M. and St-Maurice, L. (1995). Independent Living and the Mistreatment of Older Adults with a Disability: A Respectful Approach. *Gérontophile*, 17(1), 35-39.

#### TEXT TYPE

**Format:** Scientific article

**Content:** Theoretical

#### DISCUSSED THEMES

Mistreatment on older adults with disability, forms of mistreatment at home, risk factors, vulnerabilities, detection, intervention, independent living philosophy, ethics, ability/inability, signs of mistreatment, multidisciplinary approach.

#### GOAL OR RESEARCH QUESTION

This article is based on a booklet prepared in the framework of the project called *Creating Community Networks Among Citizens with Disabilities for the Prevention of Family Violence* from the Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres (CAILC). It aims at increasing awareness on ethical issues raised by the respect-based approach of the older adult with a disability and being mistreated. This approach takes its roots from the principles of the independent living philosophy.

#### PROBLEM

The objective of the independent living philosophy is the individual empowerment of persons with disabilities in order to remove any obstacle impeding their full integration and participation in society. This philosophy is applied in the Independent Living Resource Centres (ILRC) in Calgary, Toronto and Trois-Pistoles, where programs are helping people with disabilities in the aim of promoting their autonomy. However, some questions remain regarding the intervention with older adults with a disability and who are mistreated.

#### METHODOLOGY

No methodology section of is presented in this article.

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## RESULTS

The intervention with an older adult with a disability and who is mistreated must be based on respect and active listening. The ethical approach suggests an intervention focused on the needs of older adults, their values and the social context. Practitioners must also be aware of their values and perceptions in order to distance themselves from the situation. Moreover, it is essential that they ponder over the ability or inability of the person, because these elements will guide the choice of intervention. They must then make the association between signs of mistreatment observed and situations of disabilities in order to perform a good reading of situations of mistreatment experienced by older adults. The multidisciplinary approach, which incorporates the knowledge of multiple practitioners, is often required since it shows the overall situation and allows the identification of appropriate interventions. This approach also allows practitioners to have a better knowledge of the resources and encourages work in partnership.

## DISCUSSION

The discussion is included with the results presented above.

## CONCLUSION

Practitioners should reflect on specific conditions of older adults as victims of violence and with disabilities, in addition to become increasingly aware of the influence of their own values and beliefs in the intervention. Once they have all assessed the facts as a whole, practitioners should ultimately figure what they would do in this specific situation.

## AVENUES FOR PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

In order to eliminate the problem of mistreatment with older adults suffering from disabilities, it is essential not to turn a blind eye on it and stop treating these people as being unproductive and dependent. It is, however, the awareness and accountability of each individual regarding societal choices (aim at ensuring the observance of social justice principles and equity) that will be the most beneficial.

## DRAFTING DATE

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