

International Working Group on Seniors and Emergencies: Who, Why, What, Where and When



Maggie Gibson, PhD, CPsych

Veterans Care Program, Parkwood Hospital,
St. Joseph's Health Care

Aging, Rehabilitation and Geriatric Care
Research Program, Lawson Health Research
Institute

Department of Psychology, University of
Western Ontario

London, Ontario, Canada

maggie.gibson@sjhc.london.on.ca



Who?

An **international working group** focused on health care providers and the continuity of health services as these relate to older adults in all phases of emergency management.



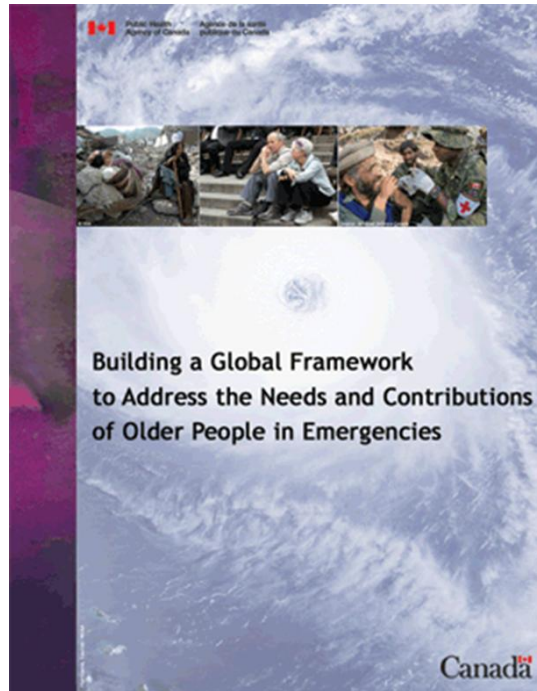
Among others, the group includes.....

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Lisa Brown | Dept of Aging and Mental Health Disparities, U of South Florida |
| **Rory Fisher | Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, U of Toronto, ON |
| Kelly Fitzgerald | University of Zurich, Switzerland |
| **Maggie Gibson | St. Joseph's Health Care London, ON |
| Patti Gorr | Division of Aging and Seniors, Public Health Agency of Canada |
| Gloria Gutman | Gerontology Research Centre, Simon Fraser University, BC |
| Louise Hardy | Health and Social Services, Yukon Territory Government, YK |
| Sandi Hirst | Faculty of Nursing, U of Calgary, AB |
| Nabil Kronfol | Lebanese HealthCare Management Association, Lebanon |
| Danielle Maltais | Département of Human Science, U du Québec à Chicoutimi, QC |
| Laurie Mazurik | Sunnybrook Health Science Centre, Toronto, ON |
| **Robert Roush | Baylor School of Medicine, Houston, Texas, USA |
| Sonja Ruthe | Emergency Program, District of Oak Bay, Victoria, BC |
| Jane Swan | Division of Aging and Seniors, Public Health Agency of Canada |
| Kim Wilson | Canadian Coalition for Seniors Mental Health, Toronto, ON |

** Co-Chairs



Why?



Since 2006, the **Public Health Agency of Canada's Division of Aging and Seniors** has spearheaded efforts to bring together experts from gerontology and emergency management to raise awareness of key issues and create new partnerships with a mandate for advocacy and action.



“The aging of the world’s population is becoming an increasingly important policy issue.....

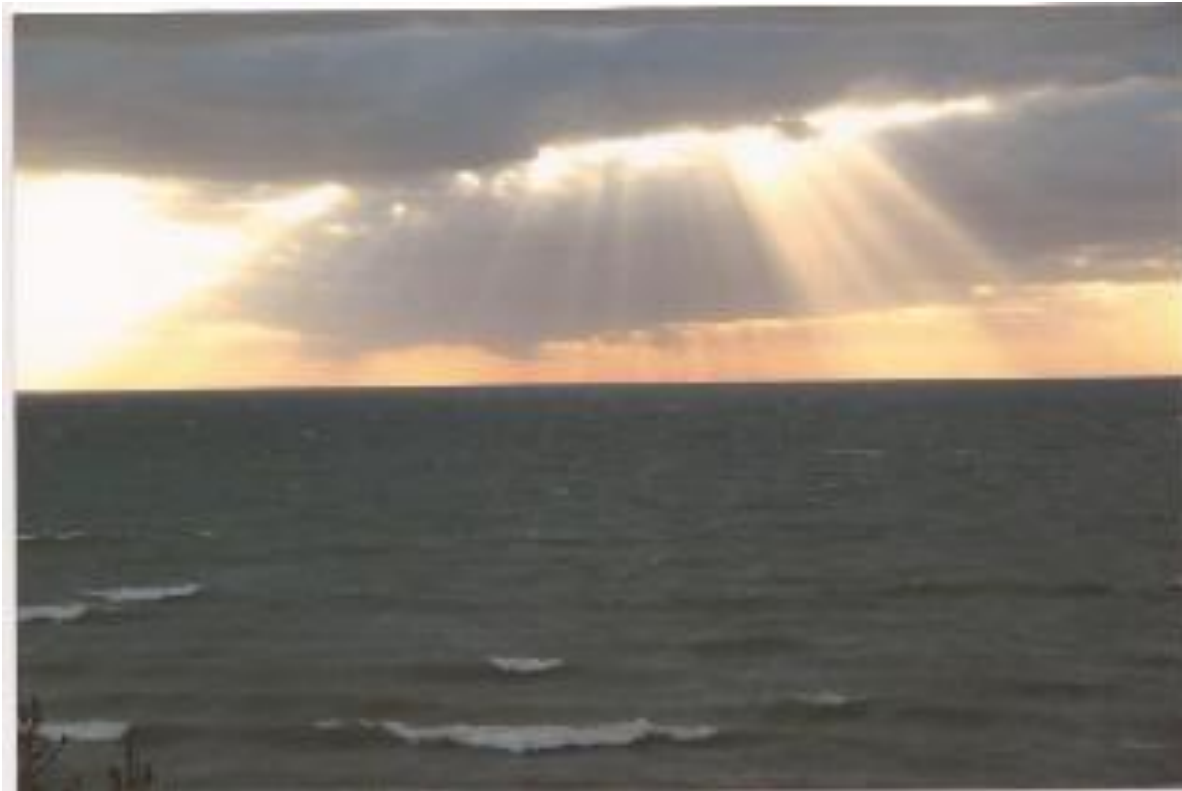
.....At the same time, governments need to strengthen emergency preparedness capabilities to respond effectively to the

growing frequency and severity of extreme weather events, pandemic outbreaks, conflicts and other disasters and humanitarian crises.”

(PHAC, 2008)



Health care providers can reduce the vulnerability of older adults in each phase of the emergency management cycle, if they have the required knowledge, tools and resources.



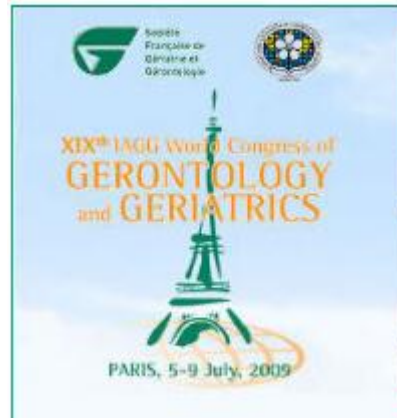
What?

Goals:

- ✓ Strengthen Networks, Engage Partnerships
- ✓ Disseminate Knowledge
- ✓ Raise Public Awareness and Educate/Train
- ✓ Promote Tools, Resources and Best Practices



Where?



When?

The challenges of population ageing worldwide

The fast ageing of populations around the world is presenting challenges for developed and developing countries. These include:

- strains on pension and social security systems;
- increasing demand for health care;
- bigger need for trained-health workforce in gerontology;
- increasing demand for long-term care, particularly in dealing with dementia; and
- the raising of pervasive ageism that denies older people the rights and opportunities available for other adults.

World Health Organization: Ageing and Life Course (<http://www.who.int/ageing/en/>)

