

Draft Remarks
Guillermo E. Rishchynski
Canada's Permanent Representative to the UN

- Good afternoon and thank you to for joining us today to mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day which I am proud to note was championed by my fellow Canadian, Dr. Elizabeth Podnieks.
- As the Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations, I am pleased to participate in this event to do my part to raise awareness on such an important issue. Like the US, Canada has been very active in addressing elder abuse at home.
- The Government of Canada is pleased to co-sponsor this event with the United States and United Nations. Events like this give us an opportunity to increase the visibility of the issue but also to find new solutions and better practices to reduce elder abuse though the exchange of ideas and experiences.
- I am glad to a see that we have a broad representation of countries and organizations, who share Canada's interest in the prevention and eradication of elder abuse. Your participation speaks both to the seriousness of this issue and our commitment to address it.
- It gives me great pleasure in welcoming the Honourable Alice Wong, Canada's Minister of State for Seniors. Minister Wong has the important role of championing seniors' issues within Canada's Parliament and Cabinet.
- As in most countries, Canada's seniors population is increasing quickly. We are entering an era where seniors will soon outnumber children. Therefore, Ms. Wong's work on seniors' issues and in particular addressing elder abuse comes at an important time.