

Sheridan College

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Investigation One: Bullying Between Older Adults: What is happening in Ontario.  
Investigation Two: Seniors Anti-bullying Implementation and Evaluation Project

Centre for Elder Research Collections

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11-19-2018

### Seniors Bullying in Ontario, The Sheridan Centre for Elder Research Preliminary Research Data

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# Sheridan

## Senior Bullying: What is Happening in Ontario (Prevalence Study)

November 19<sup>th</sup> 2018

**Presented by:**

**Kirsten Madsen**, PhD, Sheridan College  
**Liza Franses**, BA (Hons.), Dip., Sheridan College

**Hosted and Facilitated by:**

**Rochella Vassell**, Regional Consultant, Elder Abuse Ontario



Social Sciences and Humanities  
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Canada



Elder Abuse Ontario  
Stop Abuse - Restore Respect



# Welcome to EAO's Webinar!

- All attendees will be muted during the webinar. This session is being recorded and will be posted on EAO website.
- If you are experiencing issues, please type into the **CHAT/QUESTION BOX** and send message to Mary Mead/**Rochella Vassell**
- There will be 15-20 minutes allocated at the end presentation for **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.**
- You will be prompted to fill out an **EVALUATION FORM** once the session has ended. Please fill out the form as your feedback will guide us for our future webinars. You will also receive an email link to the evaluation after the session.
- Speaker **CONTACT INFORMATION** will be provided at the end of the presentation to connect directly if you have further questions.

# Land Acknowledgment

In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, we would like to acknowledge the many territories of Turtle Island (Canada) on which we work and reside. By acknowledging that we are meeting on aboriginal land that has been inhabited by Indigenous peoples from the beginning. As settlers, we're grateful for the opportunity to meet here and we thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land - for thousands of years. Long before today, as we gather here, there have been aboriginal peoples who have been the stewards of this place.

We recognize and deeply appreciate their historic connection to this place. We also recognize the contributions of Métis, Inuit, and other Indigenous peoples have made, both in shaping and strengthening this community in particular, and our province and country as a whole.

Land acknowledgements do not exist in a past tense, or historical context: colonialism is a current ongoing process, and we need to build our mindfulness of our present participation. As settlers, this recognition of the contributions and importance of Indigenous peoples must also be clearly and overtly connected to our collective commitment to make the promise and the challenge of Truth and Reconciliation real in our communities, and in particular to bring justice for murdered and missing indigenous women, girls, trans and 2 spirited folks across our country.



Elder Abuse Ontario  
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# Elder Abuse Ontario (EAO)

**Mission:** Create an Ontario where all seniors are free from abuse through awareness, education, training, collaboration, service co-ordination and advocacy.

- Not-for-profit charitable organization
- Established in 1992
- Funded by the Province of Ontario, under the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility

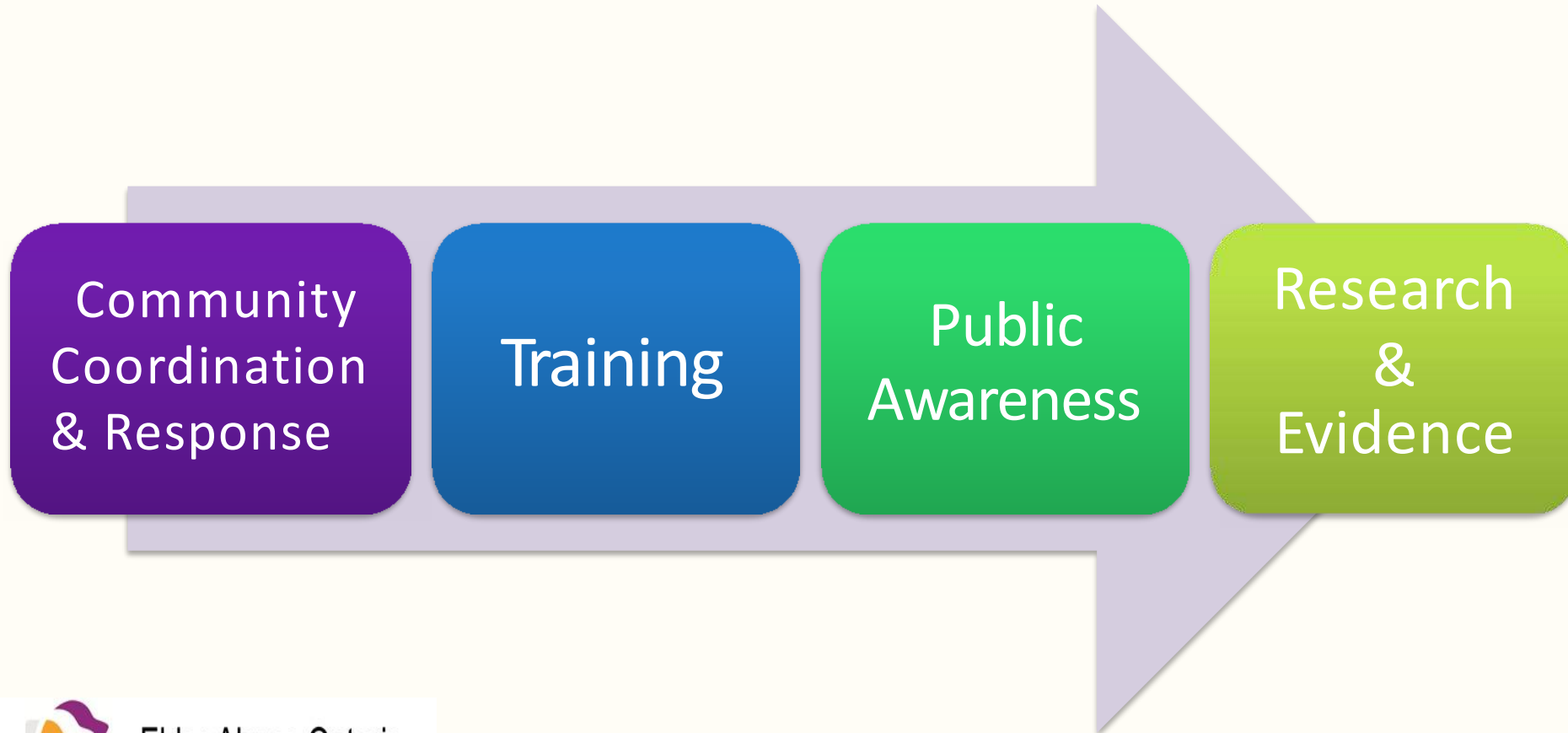
**EAO oversee the Implementation of  
Ontario's Strategy to Combat Elder Abuse**



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# Ontario's Strategy to Combat Elder Abuse

Comprised of 4 Major Priorities



Elder  
Stop Abuse



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# Elder Abuse Ontario (EAO)

## ✓ 7 Regional Consultants in Ontario

(Peterborough, Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Ottawa, Woodstock, Toronto, Mississauga) Francophone



- ✓ Deliver education and training to seniors and organizations
- ✓ Key resources for providing consultation on elder abuse cases to review options and resources for intervention.
- ✓ Strengthen partnerships between these committees and other health/social service agencies to enhance the response to elder abuse.
- ✓ Support over 40 Elder Abuse Committees / Networks
- ✓ Consultants **DO NOT** act as case managers for cases of abuse.



**Dr. Kirsten Madsen is a faculty member at Sheridan College. She received her PhD in Developmental Psychology from the University of Sheffield in England. Specifically, her graduate work was with the Sheffield University anti-bullying project. Since then she went on to assess what anti-bullying strategies were being implemented by schools across England.**

**Dr. Madsen conducts research and has done extensive training with frontline staff in the area of bullying, aggression, age differences, gender differences, and program development. Currently she is the Project Director for *the “Seniors bullying Seniors: What is happening in Ontario”*, a project being conducted in partnership between Sheridan College and Elder Abuse Ontario that is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada (SSHRC).**





Liza is an older adult advocate that has worked with diverse older adult communities in Toronto and North York. Her background ranges from working with older adults in long-term care to adult day programs, and managing a multicultural Seniors Active Living Centre.

Liza's education includes a Health & Society degree from York University and a Diploma from the George Brown College Activation Coordination/Gerontology program.

Liza is passionate about advocating on behalf of older adults and ensuring that they are consulted and in engaged in matters that help them stay independent in their homes and engaged in their communities.



# Senior Bullying: What is Happening in Ontario (Prevalence Study)

*A Partnership between Sheridan College & Elder Abuse Ontario*

to better understand what is happening in Ontario, AND to use this data to create a resource package outlining best practices for seniors and those working with seniors to stop bullying.

Kirsten Madsen, PhD., Sheridan College  
Liza Franses, BA (Hons.), Dip., Sheridan College



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# Today's Objectives

- Project Overview
- Demographic Representation
- Preliminary Statistics
  - Being Bullied, Engaged in Bullying & Witnessing Bullying
- Next Steps
- Q & A

# MEET THE TEAM

## SHERIDAN COLLEGE

- Kirsten Madsen  
(Principal Investigator)
- Liza Franses  
(Project Manager)
- Kathryn Warren-Norton  
(The Sheridan Centre for Elder  
Research Liaison)
- Jordyn Sousa (Research Assistant)
- Rebecca Rodrigues  
(Research Assistant)

Pat Spadafora, Kaleidoscope Consulting  
(Co-Investigator)

## Elder Abuse Ontario

- Rochella Vassell, Central West  
(Research Collaborator)
- Raeann Rideout, Central East,  
(Research Collaborator)
- Stéphanie Cadieux, East,  
(Research Collaborator)



# What Is Senior Bullying?

**“Bullying is sometimes called harassment and happens when someone hurts, intimidates or scares a peer consciously or unconsciously. When someone is being bullied they often have a hard time defending themselves. Bullying is usually not a one-time event. It can happen over and over again.”**

*This survey relates to bullying which is based on peer to peer interactions, and not perpetrated by a person who is in a position of trust.*

# PROJECT AIMS:

- Collect data on the prevalence and nature of Senior to Senior bullying in Ontario;
- Use this data to create a resource package outlining best practices for seniors and those working with seniors to stop bullying.

# Survey Questions:

- How prevalent is bullying behaviour among older adults in Ontario (aged 55+)
- What types of behaviours are occurring
- Typical profile of someone who is bullied
- Typical profile of someone who has engaged in bullying behaviours
- Perceived reasons for bullying
- Perceived consequences of bullying

# Survey

- Older Adults (55+)
- Target Internet & Senior Centres across **Ontario** (living in the community as well as residing in seniors' residences)
- Geographic regions (rural, urban)
- Languages:
  - Official English and French languages.
  - Top 5 languages in Ontario, as identified by the Ontario Government: Punjabi, Simplified Chinese, Portuguese, Italian and Spanish.
- On line & Paper



# Respondents:

- N= 683
- English n= 653 (being presented today)
- Received but still need to be added to analysis:
  - 13 French, 1 Chinese, 2 Spanish, 14 Punjabi

# Demographics to Date

- **Living Arrangements**

- 88% live in the community
- Senior Apartment/Residence = **10%**

- **Age:**

- Majority 65 – 74 Years Old (47%)
- 55 – 64 years old = 28%

- **Gender**

- Female = 78%
- Male = 21%

# Demographics Cont'd

## **Self Identified Racial/Ethnic Group**

- White: European North American (78%)
- Asian: East, South, South East (7%)
- Indigenous (5%)

## **Region**

- North (7%)
- Central (18%)
- Eastern Ontario (16%)
- Western Ontario (15%)
- GTA (43%)

# Preliminary Statistics – English Surveys

- **Been Bullied** within the last 4 months = 57%
- **Often**(weekly & daily combined) = 13%

# Preliminary Statistics – English Surveys

- **Engaged in Bullying behaviours** in the last 4 months = 56%
- **Often** (weekly & daily combined) = 12%

# Preliminary Statistics – English Surveys

- **Witness to Bullying** behaviours within last 4 months = 55%
- **Often** (weekly & daily combined) = 12%

# Most Prevalent Behaviours Experienced

- Gave you the **silent treatment** =22%
- **Verbal aggression** (e.g. called names, teased, insulted) = 21%
- Tried to influence you by making you feel guilty (**manipulation tactics**) = 21%
- Used **sarcasm** to insult you = 17%

# How Does It Make You Feel?

- **Being Bullied:**
  - 70% Upsetting or extremely upsetting
- **Engaging in Bullying Behaviours:**
  - 78% Upsetting or extremely upsetting



# How Does It Make You Feel?

- **Witnessing Bullying Behaviour:**
  - 45% Angry
  - 18% worried it would happen to them

*“I would like to stand up for the person, but know, I would be the next one to be bullied” (Survey respondent)*

# Reasons Why It Happens?

- Number 1 reason identified for why they believe they are bullied is “**Age**” = 27%,
- and for why they engage in bullying behaviour is “Age” = 8%
- Followed by Physical Ability, Race/Ethnic Origin, Gender, Religion.
- ??? Of note: 11% of participants felt their sexual orientation was the reason for being bullied, but only 2% said they engaged in bullying behaviour because of sexual orientation ???

## **Need to dig Deeper:**

*“Tend to see bullying at social gatherings i.e., bridge games. Individuals take on the leader role and exhibit bullying behaviours when others don’t do things as they would...”*

*Survey respondent*

# Data: Where we are now

- In depth analysis with complete data set (all languages)
- Results Updates on:
  - Seniors Bullying Project Website (hosted through Sheridan College)
  - Elder Abuse Ontario Website

*“Everyone knows this is happening.  
We need answers now”*

Resident in a Seniors Apartment, Sept, 2018

# APPLICATION OF DATA:

- **4 Think Tank Sessions:** GTA & Halton, Peel Region (Oakville); South West (London), South East (Peterborough), and East (Ottawa).
- With stakeholders across Ontario to obtain feedback on the data.
- Use data and feedback to develop a resource package of best practices for older adults, frontline staff and agencies to use in order to prevent and respond to bullying.

# THINK TANK SESSIONS

- **FOCUS:**

- **Present data**, and engage in exercises to **obtain stakeholder feedback** on the data itself
- **Obtain Stakeholder feedback to inform prevention and interventions to STOP BULLYING BEHAVIOURS AMONGST OLDER ADULTS!**
- **Homework** will be assigned **prior** to the sessions. This homework will assist in the Think Tank Sessions.

- **TIMELINES:**

- **Late April and May 2019!**

# UTLIMATE OBJECTIVE!

- **Use survey Data, Stakeholder Feedback, and EVIDENCE based preventions and interventions to develop a resource package.**

# In the meantime...

Survey asked what would help you address bullying behaviour?

The 2 main responses were:

Education & Awareness and Speaking out against it

*“Speaking out against it and reporting it whenever seen or heard”*

*- Survey Respondent*



To sign up for the Think Tank Sessions or to see Project Updates go to:

- Senior Bullying Project please visit the website:
- <https://www.sheridancollege.ca/research/active-research/serc/bullying-between-older-adults>

# For More Information Contact

- Dr. Kirsten Madsen (Principal Investigator) at [kirsten.madsen@sheridancollege.ca](mailto:kirsten.madsen@sheridancollege.ca)
- Liza Franses (Research Manager) at [liza.franses@sheridancollege.ca](mailto:liza.franses@sheridancollege.ca)

**Get Help  
Now**

**Call the Seniors Safety Line**

**1-866-299-1011**

Free to call  
Confidential  
24 hours a day  
7 days a week



**Elder Abuse Ontario**

Stop Abuse - Restore Respect



# CONNECT WITH US

**Connect With Us**

To learn more about Elder Abuse Call  
416-916-6728

Support Elder Abuse Ontario

Subscribe to Newsletter

## Stay Connected



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# Questions

**Visit Our Site Today !**

**Explore the features, navigate the directories and resources!**



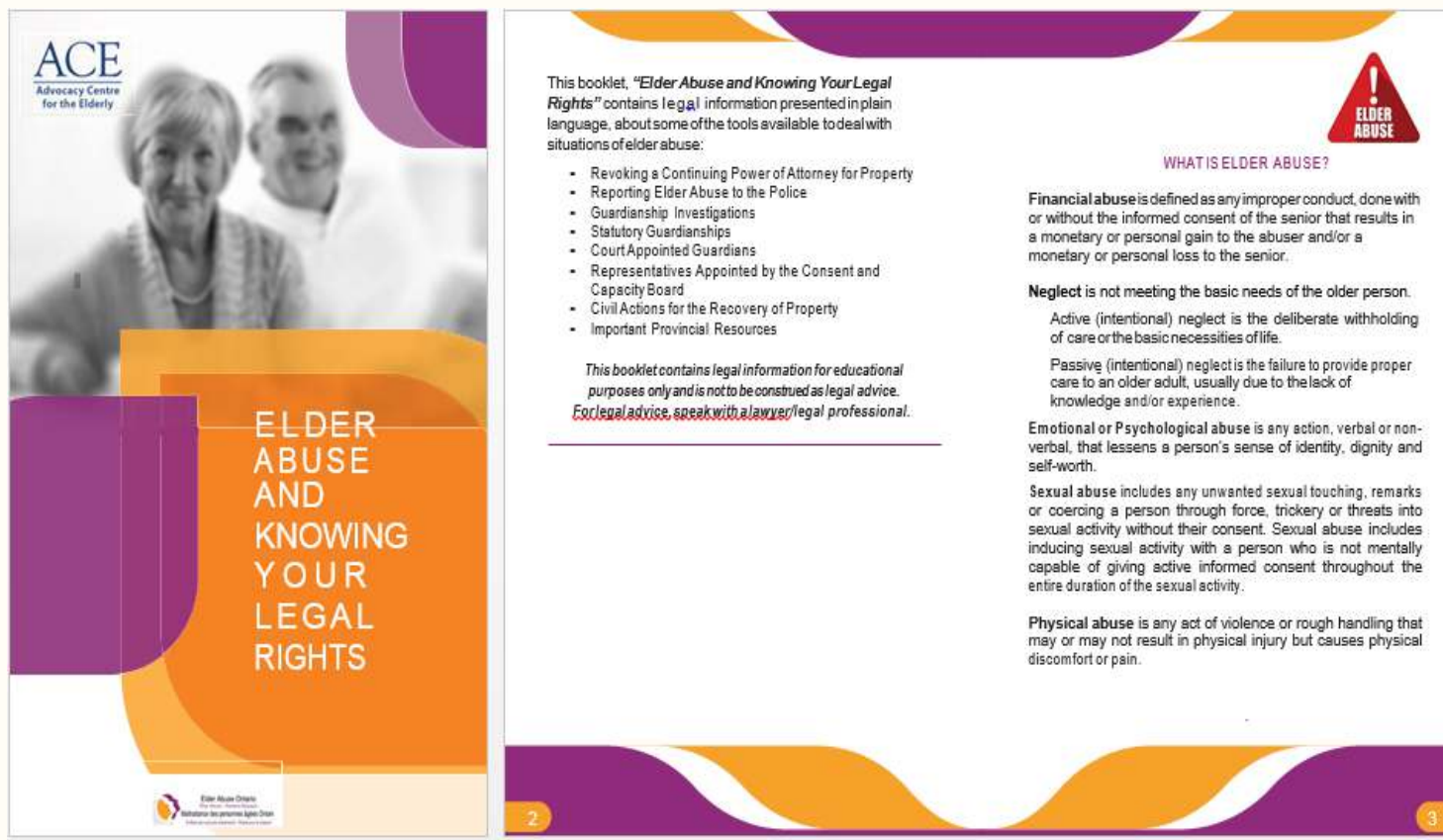
[www.elderabuseontario.com](http://www.elderabuseontario.com)



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# New Resource on Your Legal Rights



The image shows a booklet cover on the left and an internal page on the right. The cover features the ACE logo (Advocacy Centre for the Elderly) and a photograph of an elderly couple. The title 'ELDER ABUSE AND KNOWING YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS' is prominently displayed in orange and purple. The internal page contains a list of topics, a disclaimer, and definitions of various types of elder abuse.

**ACE**  
Advocacy Centre  
for the Elderly

**ELDER ABUSE AND KNOWING YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS**

**ACE**  
Advocacy Centre  
for the Elderly

This booklet, "**Elder Abuse and Knowing Your Legal Rights**" contains legal information presented in plain language, about some of the tools available to deal with situations of elder abuse:

- Revoking a Continuing Power of Attorney for Property
- Reporting Elder Abuse to the Police
- Guardianship Investigations
- Statutory Guardianships
- Court Appointed Guardians
- Representatives Appointed by the Consent and Capacity Board
- Civil Actions for the Recovery of Property
- Important Provincial Resources

*This booklet contains legal information for educational purposes only and is not to be construed as legal advice. For legal advice, speak with a lawyer/legal professional.*

**ELDER ABUSE**

**WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?**

**Financial abuse** is defined as any improper conduct, done with or without the informed consent of the senior that results in a monetary or personal gain to the abuser and/or a monetary or personal loss to the senior.

**Neglect** is not meeting the basic needs of the older person.

Active (intentional) neglect is the deliberate withholding of care or the basic necessities of life.

Passive (intentional) neglect is the failure to provide proper care to an older adult, usually due to the lack of knowledge and/or experience.

**Emotional or Psychological abuse** is any action, verbal or non-verbal, that lessens a person's sense of identity, dignity and self-worth.

**Sexual abuse** includes any unwanted sexual touching, remarks or coercing a person through force, trickery or threats into sexual activity without their consent. Sexual abuse includes inducing sexual activity with a person who is not mentally capable of giving active informed consent throughout the entire duration of the sexual activity.

**Physical abuse** is any act of violence or rough handling that may or may not result in physical injury but causes physical discomfort or pain.

2 3



**Elder Abuse Ontario**  
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# CONTACT ELDER ABUSE ONTARIO

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# THANK YOU

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