

Overview of Human Sex Trafficking, Sexual Exploitation and Child Sex Trafficking in Canada.

2023 by Cathy Peters- BC anti human trafficking educator, speaker, advocate

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Author: “**Child Sex Trafficking in Canada and How to Stop It**”.

1. **Cases:** Most notorious cases in Canada: **Amanda Todd** (victim), **Robert Pickton** (sex buyer and serial killer), **Reza Moazami** (trafficker)- all from British Columbia.

Provinces are not consistently addressing the crime- Alberta, Ontario, Manitoba, Quebec, Nova Scotia have better public awareness than BC.

-Dr. Jacqui Linder registered psychologist and traumatologist from Alberta, states “Human Trafficking is one of the forms of trauma that when you really understand what people are going through and what is being done to them, it is TRUE EVIL.”

2. **Crime:** Organized crime, international crime syndicates are typically involved.

3. **Mental Health and Addictions: Sexual Violence is the worse form of trauma a human being can experience.** Dr. Ingeborg Kraus- German psychotraumatologist.

-Children who are sexualized are vulnerable, live with CTSD- Complex Trauma Stress Disorder and ACEs- Adverse Childhood Experiences- Dr. Nadine Burke, USA pediatrician on ACEs.

-Dr. Vincent Felitti connects childhood experiences and physical and mental health as adults- childhood trauma is associated with chronic diseases during adulthood and child trafficking will worsen the economic burden on civil governance.

4. **4 Factors** causing Sexual Exploitation: **globalization, unregulated technology, limited law enforcement and very little prevention education.**

5. **Definition:** Human trafficking is the recruiting, transporting, transferring, receiving, holding, concealing, harbouring, or exercising control over a person for the purpose of exploiting them. Key word is **EXPLOITATION.**

6. **Stats:**

-13 years is age of recruitment, 10-12 years in urban centers.

-54% in the sex trade are Indigenous, 70-90% in urban centers.

-82% had childhood sexual abuse/incest.

-72% live with CTSD or Complex PTSD.

-95% in prostitution want to leave- it is NOT a choice or a job.

-90%-99% of prostituted persons are pimped or trafficked. Traffickers make hundreds of thousands of dollars per victim per year or from \$1000-\$5000 per day per victim.

-1-5% of individuals are able to leave the sex industry- the majority become mentally ill, drug addicted, commit suicide or are murdered.

7. **My work:** raising awareness to 3 levels of government in BC, since “**The Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act**” became Federal Law in 2014. PCEPA Federal Law has **4 parts:**

1. Targets the DEMAND by criminalizing the buyer of sex, profiteer.

2. Seller of sex is immune from prosecution

3. Exit strategies are in place to assist the victim out of the sex trade.

4. Robust prevention education is in place so youth, children and the vulnerable are not pulled into the sex industry.

PCEPA Law focuses on the source of harm: the DEMAND. The clear statement from Parliament was that girls and women in Canada are **NOT FOR SALE**; they are full human beings with dignity and human rights. Canada has international obligations to deter demand: **Palermo Protocol Article 9, section 5**. Training for understanding and interpreting PCEPA: Nathalie Levman with Department of Justice: Nathalie.levman@justice.gc.ca Phone-613-948-7429, Cell- 613-883-5190.

8. Problem: This Law is not enforced consistently in Canada or BC.

-Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal are global sex tourism hotspots.

-Canada is a Child Sex Tourism destination (TIP report from USA State Department).

-Global sex trade is targeting children- children is where the money is, fuelled by the internet where the luring takes place. Globally, Canada is one of the biggest consumers of CSAM (child sexual abuse material or child pornography).

9. Strategy for Provinces and Communities: Reduce Demand, Diminish Supply.

-Main businesses: unregistered massage and body rub parlours, nail spas, day spas, wellness centers, modelling agencies, tattoo parlours, escort services, cheap bars and hotels, men's clubs, AirBnb, VRBO, casinos, strip clubs, organized crime club houses, bus stops, train stations, homeless camps, tent cities, work camps, pool halls, community centers- wherever youth congregate.

-Schools are recruiting grounds for gangs and human trafficking. There is growing research that some school personnel are involved with sexual interference with students- source- Cybertip.ca.

10. Strategy for the public: Learn, Share, Alert. **Resources:**

Canadian: -beamazingcampaign.org- resources, research, teaching videos- Cathy Peters

-Public Safety Canada- Human Trafficking.

-Canadian Center to End Human Trafficking- National Hotline number: 1-833-900-1010.

-Cybertip.ca- Canadian Center for the Protection of Children.

-National Human Trafficking Education Center- Joy Smith Foundation.

USA:- National Centre on Sexual Exploitation- NCOSE (research based and holds global summits) and Demand.org (addressing demand to stop sexual exploitation).

-Protect Young Eyes- protectyoungeyes.org- founded by Chris McKenna

-Defend Young Minds-defendyoungminds.org- founded by Kirsten Jensen

-Parents Against Child Abuse- P.A.X.A.- founded by Tania Haigh

International: OSCE- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe- Canada belongs along with 56 other countries- 1 billion people are represented. Valiant Richey is the OSCE Special representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

Trends:

-Increased sexualization of youth/children.

-Resulting in: increased childhood sexual assault/incest.

-Women/girls losing safe spaces with transgenderism movement.

-Pornography use is the fuel.

-Lack of digital safety training availability and lack of social media accountability.

-Lack of positive parenting support.

-Development of AI (Artificial Intelligence) of Child Sexual Abuse Material.

8 strategies for Cities and Municipalities:

1. Learn about the issue at my website: beamazingcampaign.org. Buy my book, “**Child Sex Trafficking in Canada and How to Stop It.**” Take the BC OCTIP (Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons) **free online course**. Encourage police to take HT course on the **Police Knowledge Network**.
2. Incorporate the United Nations 4 Pillars in a local strategy to stop Human trafficking/sexual exploitation: **Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, Partnerships**.
3. **Prevention**: raise awareness in community. Children of the Street (Plea), End Exploitation Education (Tiana Sharifi), BRAVE education (Alberta), National Human Trafficking Education Center (Joy Smith Foundation- Manitoba) does school and community programs. Encourage “Men End Exploitation” movements: Moosehide Campaign, Westcoast Boys Club Network. Support porn addiction services for youth; “Fightthenewdrug” program recognizing the public health effects to youth of viewing violent sexual material. Use communications to raise awareness: Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking has FREE posters, wallet cards. Calgary has “Not in My City” campaign, Ontario has “Saving the girl next door program”.
4. **Protection**: have exit strategies in place for victims, consider 24-7 “wrap-around programs” Salvation Army “Deborah’s Gate”, Covenant House, Union Gospel Mission. Support **School Liaison Officer Programs in BC Schools** as an effective deterrent against organized crime recruitment for gangs and sex trafficking.
5. **Prosecution**: increase policing budget, training, and priorities. Have “buyer” deterrents in place, enforce the law; “**Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act**” which addresses “**demand**”- the profiteers, facilitators, buyers of commercially paid sex.
6. **Partnerships**: Train community stakeholders: Police, Health care workers, fire department, municipal business licensing managers, educators, businesses to recognize human trafficking/sexual exploitation. **Fraser Health Authority** has a human trafficking protocol, Surrey Fire department is trained to recognize HT indicators. Train judges/Crown Counsel/criminal justice system.
7. **Partnerships**: with other cities and municipalities at local government associations, Police agencies, 3 levels of government (civic, provincial, federal); UBCM, FCM with Resolutions.
8. **Goal**: safe, healthy, vibrant communities that are fit for families, youth, children, and all vulnerable populations.

National Human Trafficking Hotline Number: 1-833-900-1010