

BC's Action Plan to Combat

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

2013-2016 *Published March 2013*

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# Minister's Message



*Over the past number of years there have been significant developments in the fight against human trafficking in British Columbia. I am pleased to say that our province is a leader in Canada when it comes to providing an effective and comprehensive response to this often hidden crime. BC's Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking for 2013 - 2016 will continue to keep us at the forefront – working together, in partnership to address and respond to human trafficking in B.C.*

*In July 2007 we established the Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons (OCTIP), the only office of its kind in Canada, to co-ordinate government's response to human trafficking. The BC Action Plan builds on OCTIP's five-year history of addressing the issue of human trafficking in our province. Further, its foundation rests firmly on the "4 P's" approach in the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol - Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnerships. With the announcement of Canada's National Action Plan in 2012, the Province is well-positioned to make significant progress.*

*Even as progress is being made, it is essential that our understanding of this complex issue continues to evolve so that we can respond effectively. The nature of human trafficking is not static; we know that traffickers prey on those in our communities who are most vulnerable and marginalized and that, due to the clandestine nature of trafficking, many cases go undetected and unreported. The work that takes place on the ground in communities is critical to responding effectively.*

*The B.C. government, through OCTIP, supports community efforts and has successfully helped raise awareness of human trafficking in many ways. One significant method has been "Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune", an online training curriculum launched in 2011. This no-cost training tool was developed in partnership with 80 stakeholders and, to date, has been accessed by thousands of people across B.C., Canada and the international community.*

*I am pleased to share this Action Plan and would like to thank all who participated in the dialogue that contributed to its development. Taking a proactive leadership role in the effort to combat human trafficking is a priority for the Province. I invite you to work with us in our efforts to address this serious issue so that we can continue to build safe, strong communities for families in BC.*

**Hon. Shirley Bond**  
**Minister of Justice and Attorney General**

# BC's Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking

*Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery and a serious human rights violation. The introduction of BC's Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking marks a new era in the fight against human trafficking in BC. This plan sets the direction for the next three years by laying out priority focus areas and actions. BC's Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons (OCTIP) is proud to lead this fight.*

*In 2012, OCTIP undertook a series of consultations with stakeholders across the province. The sessions were held in Vancouver, Victoria and Prince George, with over 130 participants attending, many from outlying communities. The consultations included representatives from law enforcement, service providers, First Nations, the faith-based community, Crown counsel, all levels of government, and many others.*

*Each participant was fully engaged and brought their unique experience to the sessions. Concerns were candidly discussed, and innovative ideas put forward. Although some issues were distinct to specific communities, several consistent themes emerged. The BC Action Plan captures these themes in five priorities for action:*

- (1) Awareness-raising*
- (2) Training and education*
- (3) Supporting community-led responses*
- (4) Service coordination*
- (5) Research, policy and legislation*

*Although the actions identified will be broad reaching and inclusive, the consultations directed our focus to three specific groups: youth at risk of trafficking for sexual exploitation; vulnerable Aboriginal women and youth; and vulnerable workers.*

*Many of you reading this document will be very familiar with human trafficking in all of its forms. Many others may be hearing about this issue, as it exists in BC, for the first time. Yes, human trafficking does occur in our province and across Canada. We are making progress in our fight to stop it. Building community capacity is critical; the more people who can recognize the signs of human trafficking, the better we can respond. The BC Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking has, at its core, a focus on the needs of the trafficked person.*

*I want to thank all who participated in the consultations. Your feedback was, and continues to be, invaluable. To those working tirelessly to prevent human trafficking, help trafficked persons and prosecute traffickers, thank you for your passion and commitment. You are an inspiring community and we are proud to be working in partnership with you.*

**Lynda Cavanaugh**  
**Assistant Deputy Minister**  
**Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch**

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# BC'S Office To Combat Trafficking in Persons

The BC Action Plan is informed by stakeholder consultations, OCTIP's five years of experience coordinating BC's response to human trafficking, as well as recent reports, research, and consultation documents in which OCTIP has participated.<sup>1</sup>

## Role and Mandate

OCTIP was launched in July 2007 to assume responsibility for the overall coordination of BC's strategy to address human trafficking. OCTIP is part of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch, Ministry of Justice.

<sup>1</sup> Examples include the RCMP's National Human Trafficking Conference "Moving Forward for an Integrated Approach to Human Trafficking (March 29 to 31, 2011)"; "Towards Human Trafficking Prevention: National and International Expert Group Meetings – Final Report, May 31, 2011"; An Exploration of Promising Practices in Response to Human Trafficking in Canada" ICCLR for FPT Forum of Status of Women Senior Officials, May 2012.

## OCTIP's mandate is to:

- Support communities in building local capacity to address human trafficking – from prevention to service provision.
- Raise awareness and provide training and education about human trafficking in BC and Canada.
- Identify gaps and barriers in services, policies and legislation that impede trafficked persons' internationally-protected human rights.
- Contribute to national and international efforts to combat human trafficking.

## Activities

OCTIP's activities include educating the public on human trafficking, training service providers on the indicators of human trafficking and proper referral mechanisms, building capacity in BC communities to address this crime, and informing provincial policies and programs that relate to human trafficking. (See Appendix A for an overview of OCTIP's recent activities)

## Partners

OCTIP works in partnership with numerous organizations to protect trafficked persons and help prevent human trafficking. In particular, OCTIP provides support, resources, information and training to service providers, community leaders, First Nations bands and councils, Aboriginal organizations, ministry partners, federal government departments, police, Crown counsel and others, and works collaboratively with them to address this issue in BC. The RCMP Human Trafficking Coordinator for the BC/Yukon region plays a significant role in the investigation of human trafficking situations and in raising awareness about this crime. (See Appendix B for a list of OCTIP key partners)

# OCTIP's Commitment to the United Nation's Trafficking in Person's Protocol

The United Nations' *Trafficking in Persons Protocol* is a protocol to the UN's *Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime*. It establishes the most widely accepted international definition of human trafficking and a framework for addressing this issue. OCTIP has adopted this framework to help guide its work in BC. The framework is known as the four pillars approach to combating human trafficking. The 4-P's are:

1. The prevention of human trafficking
2. The protection of victims
3. The prosecution of offenders
4. Partnerships with others

Follow the link to more information about the *UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol* and the international definition of human trafficking:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/index.html>

## Overview of Human Trafficking

### What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking involves the recruiting, harbouring and/or controlling of a person for the purpose of exploitation – most commonly in Canada for labour or sexual exploitation. The key indicator of human trafficking is whether someone is being controlled for the purpose of exploitation, and does not necessarily mean that person has been physically transported across a border. In fact, many trafficking cases in Canada occur inside Canadian borders (Domestic Trafficking).

Human traffickers often use a variety of means, such as threats, lies, coercion, abuse, violence and other tactics to gain and keep control of a person in order to exploit them for their labour or sexual services. Canada's *Criminal Code*<sup>2</sup> prohibits all forms of human trafficking and imposes mandatory minimum

sentences on child traffickers. *Criminal Code* offences, such as the prostitution-related offences or offences related to the sexual exploitation of minors, kidnapping and sexual assault, may also be used to prosecute human traffickers.

### What types of human trafficking occur in Canada?

As of April 2012, according to the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking, 25 convictions involving 41 victims were obtained under human trafficking specific offences in the *Criminal Code*. In British Columbia three cases with human trafficking charges are currently before the courts.

#### Resources

OCTIP's online training course for service providers on human trafficking is available in English and French and can be accessed at: "Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune" [www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octip/training.htm](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octip/training.htm)

More background information about OCTIP's development, history, and human rights approach is available in OCTIP's Three Year Status Report (2007 to 2010) on OCTIP's website at: [www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octip](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octip).

<sup>2</sup> *Criminal Code of Canada* sections 279.01, 279.011, 279.02, 279.03 and 279.04 prohibit human trafficking. *The Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* also prohibits human trafficking and human smuggling.

British Columbia has seen examples of the following types of human trafficking:

### **Trafficking for sexual exploitation**

Trafficked persons are sexually exploited when forced to perform sexual acts such as exotic dancing, prostitution, or the production of pornography. Trafficked persons are often lured and groomed by people posing as boyfriends or girlfriends and are forced to hand over most, or all, of their money. A strict set of rules is usually imposed on the trafficked person including contacting their trafficker at regular intervals, not talking to others, and sleeping and eating in the same place as they are exploited. Violence and threats of violence are often used as a means of control to force trafficked persons to perform sexual services. Debt bondage often results from gifts, expensive clothes, and drugs that are supplied to the trafficked person by the trafficker during the recruitment phase. Human trafficking charges related to the sexual exploitation of several minors in micro-brothels in the Lower Mainland are currently proceeding in the BC courts.<sup>3</sup>

### **Labour trafficking**

Trafficked persons are forced to work long hours under unsafe and very poor working conditions. They are paid little or no money. Some examples of the type of industries where trafficked persons have been identified are construction, agriculture, restaurants, and manufacturing. In some cases trafficked persons are exploited in illegal drug labs or forced to transport drugs for their traffickers.

The exploitation of young Honduran boys by traffickers in Vancouver was discovered from 2000 to 2003. Men, women, and children have been victims of forced labour in Canada.<sup>4</sup>

### **Domestic servitude**

Domestic servitude is a type of labour trafficking. Trafficked persons are forced to clean houses, do laundry and other domestic chores, care for children and elderly family members, and are often called upon to be available at all times of the day or night. They receive very little or no pay for their work. In many cases, trafficked persons may owe a large debt to their trafficker that must be paid off. Their movements are restricted, and passports and other identity documents are taken by the trafficker to maintain control over them. Trafficked persons in these situations are often fed food scraps and show signs of malnourishment. They may not speak English and are unaware of their rights in Canada. Two cases involving human trafficking for purposes of domestic servitude are currently proceeding through the courts in British Columbia.<sup>5</sup>

### **Forced to commit fraud/petty crime**

Trafficked persons are sometimes forced to commit fraud to benefit their trafficker. In the largest labour trafficking case to date in Canada trafficked persons were forced to file fraudulent refugee claims, and in some cases, claims for social assistance benefits/welfare, and to provide the benefits to the traffickers. In this case traffickers also forced the victims into petty crime, such as stealing cheques from mailboxes.<sup>6</sup>

*“Ending human trafficking is not idealistic or naive. It is audacious. And it is people of audacity who change the world.”*

Rob Morris

<sup>3</sup> *R. v. Moazami* B.C.P.C. File No. 228447

<sup>4</sup> See, for example, *R. v. Domotor et al*, 2011 ONSC 626 (Bail decision)

<sup>5</sup> *R. v. Orr and Huen*, B.C.S.C. File No. 26094 (Vancouver); *R. v. Ladha* B.C.S.C. File No. 26249-2 (Vancouver)

<sup>6</sup> See, for example, *R. v. Domotor* above

# National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking In Persons

Canada's first *National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking* was released in June 2012. This is a significant step forward in the fight against human trafficking in Canada. The BC Action Plan has been informed by the *National Action Plan* in order to ensure a coordinated approach with our federal partners on this issue. OCTIP will continue to work closely with the federal government and other stakeholders and partners on the implementation of both Action Plans.

“The National Action Plan will consolidate ongoing efforts of the federal government to combat human trafficking and introduce aggressive new initiatives to prevent human trafficking, identify victims, protect the most vulnerable and prosecute perpetrators.” (pg. 9) It can be accessed here: <http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/le/cmbt-trffkng-eng.aspx>

## OCTIP's 10 Guiding Principles

Ten principles have guided the development of BC's Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking. These principles, along with recommendations from the 2012 BC consultations, have informed and guided the determination of priority actions and future initiatives to combat human trafficking in British Columbia:

### 1 Uphold human rights of trafficked persons

Human trafficking is a serious violation of human rights. The internationally protected rights of trafficked persons will be respected in efforts to address human trafficking in BC. International human rights instruments provide guidance to the work of OCTIP.<sup>7</sup>

### 2 Recognize unique vulnerabilities of Aboriginal youth and women

Aboriginal people experience unique vulnerabilities to human trafficking. These unique vulnerabilities are due to the impact of colonization, racism, abuse in residential schools, poverty, fractured families and the incidence of sexual abuse in Aboriginal communities. Culturally relevant approaches to human trafficking will be developed in consultation and partnership with Aboriginal community members in BC.

### 3 Address the diverse needs of trafficked persons

Trafficked persons come from a wide diversity of backgrounds and experiences, including different linguistic and cultural groups. The diversity of trafficked persons' needs will be recognized and addressed in initiatives developed to prevent and respond to human trafficking in BC.

### 4 Include perspectives of trafficked persons

The voices and perspectives of trafficked persons are important for informing actions and initiatives in the fight against human trafficking. To the extent possible, OCTIP will engage trafficked persons in the development of programs and actions, especially those designed to protect and support survivors of trafficking.

<sup>7</sup> These instruments include the *Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW), the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC), the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, and *Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking*.

## 5 Protect children and youth

Some children and youth are at a higher risk of exploitation by human traffickers due to risk factors that include homelessness, the experience of violence, misuse of alcohol and drugs, disconnection from family and/or other significant adults in their lives, family instability and failure to remain in school, work or day programs. The heightened vulnerability of children and youth to human traffickers requires special measures, as noted by the UN *Trafficking in Persons Protocol*. Initiatives for youth and children will be carefully designed to address their unique experiences and vulnerabilities.

## 6 Respect regional diversity

The diverse needs of different regions of the province will be taken into account, such as those of rural, remote, Aboriginal, and urban communities in efforts to effectively address human trafficking in BC. OCTIP will take into account its province-wide mandate when developing responses to human trafficking.

## 7 Support community-led responses

Service providers and community members are in the best position to respond to human trafficking in their local area. OCTIP will support community-led efforts to prevent and address human trafficking in BC.

## 8 Deliver culturally competent services

Trafficked persons are a diverse group from many different cultural backgrounds. Services to trafficked persons must be provided in a culturally competent manner and in the trafficked person's language. OCTIP will continue to facilitate the provision of translated materials and interpretation services to ensure rights are respected and to ensure trafficked persons can make informed choices. The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch supports efforts of its funded programs to acquire and demonstrate culturally competent practices.

## 9 Use evidence-based approaches

Evidence-based approaches will guide the development of human trafficking prevention initiatives and the provision of services to trafficked persons in BC.

## 10 Address underlying root causes of vulnerability

Human traffickers prey on vulnerable people and youth. The root causes of vulnerability must be addressed at a systemic level including poverty, gender inequality, racism, discrimination, substance abuse and addictions, vulnerability of youth to predators and, as stated earlier, the impacts of colonization on Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

# What the 2012 Stakeholder Consultations Told Us - Emerging Issues

In 2012, more than 130 stakeholders participated in three consultations held by OCTIP to inform the development of the BC Action Plan. (See Appendix C for a list of participants) In these consultations several themes and emerging issues relating to human trafficking arose from the knowledge and discussion of participants. These are identified on pages 7 - 9.

A summary report from each of the three consultations held by OCTIP in 2012 to inform the development of the BC Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking is located on OCTIP's website: <http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octip/>

## The vulnerability of temporary foreign workers, domestic workers and others in BC

Foreign workers contribute to the BC economy and are vital to its continued growth in the future. However, workers from other countries may be vulnerable to exploitation and require support and protection in order to prevent human trafficking. The consultations raised concerns about the vulnerability of temporary foreign workers, live-in caregivers, nannies, seasonal agricultural workers, domestic workers and others with less than permanent status in Canada. These temporary foreign workers appear to be at increased risk due to isolation, inability to speak the language, and lack of knowledge of their rights in Canada that can be taken advantage of by human traffickers. In addition, the requirement for the worker to be tied to one employer as a condition of their work permit is sometimes abused by unscrupulous employers/traffickers. These employers/traffickers often use coercion, threats and violence to force these vulnerable workers to work very long hours, at little or no pay, often in unsafe working conditions. With little understanding of the laws in Canada, temporary foreign workers in these situations often feel trapped, with nowhere to turn for assistance. Traffickers use threats of deportation and seize passports and other identity documents to further gain control over the labour of these workers.

Participants perceived a lack of monitoring systems to deter and prevent the exploitation and trafficking of temporary foreign workers in BC. It was acknowledged that employment standards legislation is available to assist workers to make a claim for unpaid wages and for illegal fees and other charges that traffickers may impose. WorkSafeBC regulations related to workplace safety can address unsafe working conditions that trafficked persons may be forced to experience. However, exploited workers are often not aware of their rights in Canada or the services available to assist them. In addition, most temporary foreign workers are not aware that laws to prohibit human trafficking exist in Canada.

## Internet use for recruitment and luring and difficulties in monitoring and policing

The increasing use of internet based social networking and texting among youth opens a new realm of unlimited communication and reach by human traffickers. Traffickers are creative and are capitalizing on this technological development; youth are lured, advertised, and exploited through social networking and other internet forums. Meanwhile, government, law enforcement, and other social institutions are struggling to respond and pre-empt the negative impacts of this phenomenon. Concern was expressed by participants about the widespread use of the internet, social media and cell phone technology to exploit youth.

## Recognition of domestic trafficking and the reality of the fast growing Aboriginal youth population in BC

There is widespread concern about the unique vulnerabilities of Aboriginal people and communities to human trafficking. Aboriginal youth represent the fastest growing population in BC and a disproportionate number of Aboriginal youth are disconnected from their families and culture, reside in rural reserve communities with limited resources, and this places them at greater risk of being groomed, lured and recruited by traffickers, especially for sexual exploitation.



Lynda Cavanaugh, ADM; Professor Ben Perrin, UBC Faculty of Law; Rosalind Currie, Director, OCTIP; Minister Shirley Bond and Chief Ian Campbell, Squamish Nation at the Vancouver/Lower Mainland OCTIP stakeholder consultation on February 2, 2012

## Emerging links between gang activity, human trafficking, and sexual exploitation

Participants in the consultations raised concerns about increased youth recruitment to gangs. Boys and girls are attracted to gangs by the promise of power, belonging, and wealth. Yet they end up being used as chattel and commodities, exploited and treated as currency to settle debts, or traded for drugs and weapons. The links between gangs, human trafficking, and sexual exploitation needs to be further explored and receive more focused attention during investigations and prosecutions related to gang activity.

## Increased need for awareness raising and information about human trafficking

There is general agreement that human trafficking may still not be well understood within the BC and Canadian public. Consultation participants encouraged changing beliefs about human trafficking through the promotion of public awareness and education campaigns. Participants also identified the need for awareness raising information that is specifically designed and targeted to meet the unique needs and requirements of the most vulnerable populations such as youth, temporary foreign workers, and Aboriginal communities. Key messages in all public campaigns and in materials developed specifically to reach youth, vulnerable workers and Aboriginal

communities should convey that human trafficking is happening in BC, it is not acceptable, and trafficked persons have rights and can access help.

## Increased need for specific research, policy and legislative responses to human trafficking

Participants agreed that more research is needed on all aspects of human trafficking in BC. In particular, participants noted a lack of research about the extent of labour trafficking and the domestic trafficking of Aboriginal youth and women in BC. Specific policy and legislative responses to issues raised about human trafficking during the consultations should be further explored.

## Increased need for training and education of front-line workers, criminal justice partners and service providers

A greater emphasis on training and education for front-line service providers, criminal justice system partners, and other professions about human trafficking was identified as a priority by consultation participants. In particular, training is needed on the indicators of human trafficking, the definition of human trafficking, and tailored responses to assist trafficked persons and address their unique needs.

## Increased need for community led responses to human trafficking

Supporting community led responses to address human trafficking was seen as a priority by most consultation participants. Continued funding and support of prevention initiatives, awareness raising activities, training initiatives, and service coordination efforts were seen as key priorities. In particular, support was expressed for replicating promising approaches to building community capacity such as the two day “Train the Trainer” model in Williams Lake. (See Appendix D for a description of the “Train the Trainer” model)

## Increased need to improve coordination of services for trafficked persons

Consultation participants made recommendations for improving the effectiveness and coordination of services for trafficked persons in BC. These included:

- Promoting a holistic approach to service delivery for trafficked persons such as “wrap around” services and one-stop access to information.

- Improving coordination of existing community resources and mobilization of these services to assist trafficked persons.
- Emphasis on long term integration and healing of trafficked persons.
- Listening to trafficked person's needs and providing solutions based on the trafficked person's assessment of their situation.
- Providing culturally relevant services for those trafficked to Canada from other countries and for those trafficked within Canada. In particular, provide a stronger focus on working with Aboriginal communities in culturally appropriate ways.
- Focus on partnerships and consistent collaboration among sectors while recognizing and understanding different roles and approaches to this issue.



Minister Shirley Bond provides opening remarks at the OCTIP stakeholder consultation held in Prince George on September 14, 2012

# Priority Focus and Action Areas

Based on consultations and OCTIP expertise, as well as current evidence-based literature and research, three priority focus areas and five priority action areas have been determined.

Each priority action area sets out immediate (6 months to 1 year), and longer term actions (1 to 3 years) that will guide the BC government's efforts to combat human trafficking.

OCTIP will support community members and partners to link efforts across BC in order to promote a coordinated response to human trafficking.

## Priority Focus Area 1: Youth Prevent and address trafficking of youth for sexual exploitation

Preventing the trafficking of youth will include developing targeted and age-appropriate information alerting youth to the tactics of traffickers, such as luring and grooming them with promises of gifts, drugs, and parties. Culturally specific responses for Aboriginal youth and youth from immigrant and refugee communities, as well as international students who may not speak English or be familiar with Canadian customs are needed. Connections between gang activity and human trafficking require more focused attention and research.

## Priority Focus Area 2: Vulnerable Workers

### Prevent and address labour trafficking of vulnerable workers

Vulnerable workers include temporary foreign workers (in construction and service industries such as restaurants), live-in caregivers, domestic workers, nannies, and seasonal agricultural workers. This group of vulnerable workers needs information about their rights and the dangers of human trafficking as well as information on how to get assistance. Evidence-based approaches to help build protective factors amongst these workers are needed. Prevention efforts also require greater information about the number and destination of temporary foreign workers and other vulnerable workers arriving in BC. Effective methods to prevent and eliminate labour trafficking in BC are needed.

## Priority Focus Area 3: Aboriginal Communities

### Prevent and address domestic trafficking of Aboriginal youth and women

Efforts will be focused on identifying culturally appropriate resources and responses to prevent

and address human trafficking in Aboriginal communities. OCTIP will work to support Aboriginal communities, leaders, and individuals in developing local responses to this issue. Building and maintaining relationships with Aboriginal communities, organizations, and First Nations leaders will continue to remain a priority for OCTIP.

## Priority Action 1

### **Raise awareness and increase public understanding of human trafficking in BC.**

Greater understanding and awareness of human trafficking will lead to increased collaboration and the development of responses in the areas of prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnerships.

#### **Actions - Immediate**

- Increase the number of school-based awareness-raising sessions on human trafficking and sexual exploitation by supporting Children of the Street Society in delivering workshops to BC schools.
- Support the development and testing of an innovative computer-based game on human trafficking aimed at youth.
- Increase the number of teachers in BC who are aware of human trafficking indicators and prevention methods by providing funding and support to the British Columbia Teachers' Federation workshop on human trafficking.

#### **Actions – Long Term**

- Increase public knowledge of human trafficking in BC through various awareness and education projects.
- Increase the number of youth in BC who are aware of the dangers of human trafficking and can spot the signs of grooming and luring by human traffickers.
- Increase the general knowledge of human trafficking laws in Canada by supporting the updating and distribution of the People's Law School booklet "Human Trafficking in Canada" and other measures.
- Explore opportunities with First Nations and Aboriginal communities for the creation of an Aboriginal specific response to educating

*"The case studies in OCTP's online training brought things to new (and real) light. The course was easy to navigate, the videos informative and the links brought an opportunity for more research."*

Health Care Worker, Northern British Columbia

Aboriginal youth and community members in BC.

- Implement an informed response including material on connections between gang activity and human trafficking, and highlight dangers of internet luring.

## Priority Action 2

### **Increase the number of service providers and front line personnel with training on human trafficking to ensure trafficked persons are identified, protected, and assisted with appropriate and culturally relevant services.**

#### **Actions - Immediate**

- Increase the distribution of the OCTIP bilingual online training tool on human trafficking for front line service providers *Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune*. Work with partners to link to training website and distribute the bilingual promotional bookmark for the online training website to BC/Canadian stakeholders (10,000 bookmarks to be distributed).
- Work with Ministry of Social Development to train front line workers using the OCTIP online training course *Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune*.

## Priority Action 2 Con't

### Actions – Long Term

- Increase the number of Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch-funded program staff<sup>8</sup> with knowledge and training on human trafficking. Increase the number of communities in BC with trained personnel to deliver human trafficking education and awareness sessions (ten key BC regions<sup>9</sup>).
- Increase the number of Crown counsel and other justice system partners in BC with knowledge about human trafficking.
- Increase profession and industry specific training on human trafficking and encourage collaboration and partnership on the development of curriculum (will depend on funding and interest by professional bodies and university programs such as health care, law, social work, and the hospitality industry).

## Priority Action 3

### **Empower and build capacity in local BC communities (including Aboriginal communities) to prevent human trafficking and provide assistance to trafficked persons.**

#### Actions - Immediate

- Increase capacity in BC communities to prevent and address human trafficking by facilitating a “Train the Trainer” event in northern British Columbia, including for Aboriginal and rural communities. (See Appendix D for more information on the “Train the Trainer” model)
- Provide Crime Prevention and Remediation grants for human trafficking and sexual exploitation awareness and prevention projects in BC communities.

#### Actions - Long Term

- Work with communities to develop anti-human trafficking resource kits to assist with local prevention and awareness raising initiatives. Include information, materials, resources, and promising practices from human trafficking and sexual exploitation projects in BC.

- Explore the development and implementation of local safety audits and comprehensive community action plans to address human trafficking in BC communities.

## Priority Action 4

### **Increase coordination of services to address the unique needs of trafficked persons in BC communities, emphasizing culturally appropriate responses.**

#### Actions – Immediate

- Support efforts in Northern BC to increase coordination of services for trafficked persons.
- Increase the number of Branch-funded programs with knowledge about human trafficking and encourage their participation in leading efforts to coordinate services for trafficked persons in their local community.

#### Actions - Long Term

- Develop a model protocol with and for community members to help guide the coordination of protections and services to children and youth who may be victims of human trafficking.
- Support local communities in developing a sustainable service model for assisting trafficked persons based on OCTIP’s Service Model. (See Appendix E) Ensure culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal communities are incorporated into local community service models where appropriate.

<sup>8</sup> The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch funds programs that support victims of crime and their families, victims of domestic/family violence and for children who witness abuse.  
<sup>9</sup> Ten BC regions are Metro Vancouver/Sea to Sky Corridor, Central BC, Fraser River, Northern BC, Fraser Valley, South Island, Kootenays, North Island, Okanagan, and South Central BC.

## Priority Action 5

### Increase research, policy and legislative responses to human trafficking in BC.

#### Actions - Immediate

- Support BC-focused research on vulnerabilities of temporary foreign workers to labour trafficking.
- Contribute information and participate in consultations on human trafficking to further inform the development of the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking.
- Contribute BC-specific information to the RCMP Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre's *Threat Assessment Report*<sup>10</sup> on domestic trafficking in Canada.

#### Actions - Long Term

In collaboration with ministries, municipal governments, law enforcement, federal government departments, provincial and federal agencies, and others as required:

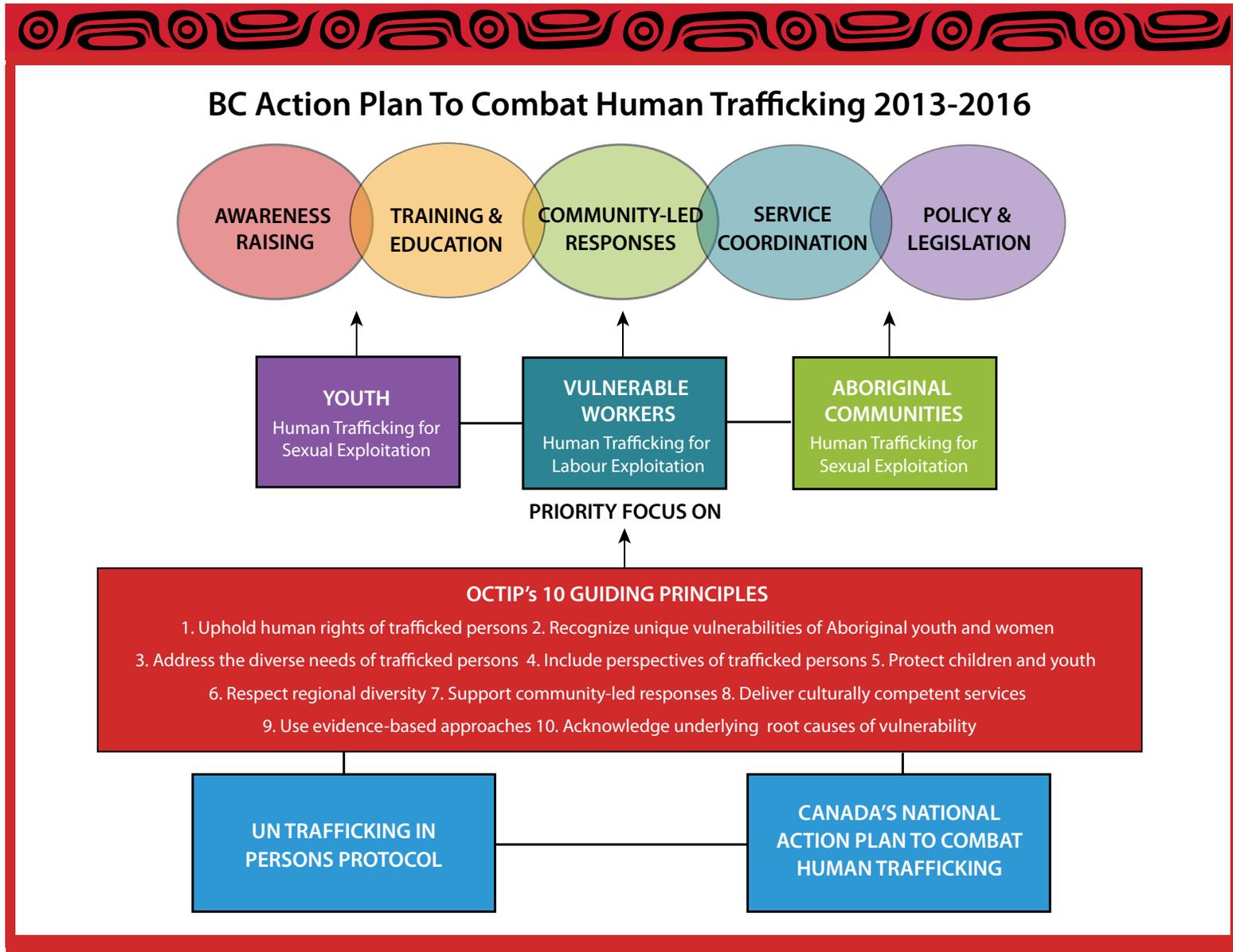
- Increase understanding about the situation of temporary foreign workers and other vulnerable workers in BC.
- Collaborate on effective methods to prevent and eliminate labour trafficking in BC.
- Increase information and knowledge about domestic trafficking of Aboriginal youth and women in BC. Support BC-focused research on domestic trafficking of Aboriginal youth and women.
- Increase policy and legislative protections for trafficked persons in BC to give full effect to their internationally protected human rights and ensure they have access to services, supports and protection measures when required.
- Identify opportunities to expand services to trafficked persons who may face language and cultural barriers.

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*“OCTIP’s online training was easy to use and an easy to read format. The language was very basic and the case studies very helpful.”*

Aboriginal service provider, Hope, British Columbia

<sup>10</sup> See RCMP's first threat assessment report on human trafficking in Canada called *Human Trafficking in Canada – Project Seclusion- March 2010*.



# Appendix A

## OCTIP's Activities (2010 - 2012)

### **On-line training for service providers (English and French versions available)**

In 2011 OCTIP developed and launched Canada's first on-line training course on human trafficking for service providers with federal funding. In 2012 the on-line training course was translated into French and is available on OCTIP's web site.

### **Telephone help line for trafficked persons**

VictimLink BC staff respond to OCTIP's 1-888 712-7974 help line for trafficked persons and refer to service providers in BC. Since 2011, OCTIP has held two in-service training sessions for VictimLink BC staff. Pocket cards in twelve languages displaying the help line number are distributed by OCTIP and service providers in BC. During 2012 VictimLink BC received approximately 26 calls from potentially trafficked persons with requests for support and referrals in BC.

### **Assistance in cases of potential human trafficking**

OCTIP has provided assistance in more than 160 potential situations of human trafficking since July 2007. OCTIP refers potential cases of human trafficking to the RCMP's Human Trafficking Coordinator for BC/Yukon for investigation and follow-up, with the trafficked person's permission. Referrals are also made to municipal law enforcement where appropriate.

### **Community capacity building initiatives**

OCTIP has worked with key communities to develop local service models for trafficked persons informed by the human rights approach in Prince George, Victoria, Vancouver, and Williams Lake. Since 2011, OCTIP has provided grant funding for prevention and awareness projects on human trafficking and sexual exploitation totaling \$568,455 (Crime Prevention and Remediation grants for 2011/2012). More information about the Crime Prevention and Remediation grant recipients and a description of the funded projects is available on the Branch web site.

Williams Lake hosted a "Train the Trainer" events that included surrounding First Nations communities to learn ways to prevent human trafficking and coordinate services for trafficked persons. (See Appendix C for more information on the "Train the Trainer" model)

### **Educating youth about human trafficking**

Since 2011, OCTIP has strengthened its partnership with Children of the Street Society to provide school-based workshops to educate youth about human trafficking. OCTIP has presented workshops at the annual BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centers *Gathering Our Voices*, Conference for Aboriginal youth. Most recently, OCTIP and Children of the Street have co-presented these sessions.

### **Domestic trafficking of Aboriginal youth and women initiative**

OCTIP builds relationships with Aboriginal communities and organizations to address the domestic trafficking of Aboriginal youth and women.

### **Monitoring of human trafficking investigations and prosecutions**

OCTIP monitors the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking offences in BC and Canada.

# Appendix A Con't

## OCTIP's Activities (2010 - 2012)

### Awareness raising sessions

During the past two years, OCTIP delivered approximately 60 awareness raising and information sessions on human trafficking to a variety of audiences.

### Partnerships

OCTIP partners with key agencies such as the RCMP's Human Trafficking Coordinator for BC/Yukon, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Children of the Street Society, Servant's Anonymous Society, other community service agencies, government, Aboriginal communities and First Nations as well as faith-based community partners. OCTIP raises issues of concern with ministry partners about gaps and barriers that trafficked persons face in BC.

### Stakeholder engagement

OCTIP's *Staying Current* newsletter is provided approximately four times per year to over 400 stakeholders in BC, across Canada, in the USA, and Europe.

### Contributing to national and international efforts to combat human trafficking

- OCTIP provides updated information on trends and activities in BC to inform the *US State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report*.
- OCTIP contributes information to the RCMP National Coordination Centre on *Human Trafficking for the Threat Assessment Report - Human Trafficking in Canada*.
- OCTIP participates in conferences, workshops and on task forces across Canada to contribute knowledge and information on human trafficking.
- OCTIP contributes to RCMP and the federal government's training initiatives on human trafficking in BC.

# Appendix B

## OCTIP's Partners

### Federal Departments and Agencies

- Federal Government's National Task Force on Human Trafficking
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- Public Prosecution Services
- Canada Border Services Agency
- Federal Funding Partners: Public Safety Canada, Department of Justice Victims Fund, National Crime Prevention Centre, Status of Women Canada

### Provincial Ministries

Key BC Provincial Ministries: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, Ministry of Children and Family Development, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Jobs, Tourism, and Skills Training and Responsible for Labour.

### Community Agencies

Community agencies, non-government organizations, and service providers.

### Faith-based Community

Churches, members of faith groups, religious organizations and other members of the faith-based community

### First Nations and Aboriginal Communities

First Nations and Aboriginal communities

### Health Care Professionals

- Surrey Memorial Hospital, Fraser Health Authority
- Community Health Clinics

### Law Enforcement/Police

- RCMP Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre
- RCMP Human Trafficking Coordinator for BC/Yukon
- Municipal Police
- BC Association of Chiefs of Police

### Municipal Governments

Municipal Governments: Langley, Surrey, Vancouver, Victoria, Prince George.

### Academics/Research

Academics and researchers from various academic institutions, including the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, University of Victoria, Royal Roads University, Capilano University, and the University of Northern British Columbia.

### Provincial Associations

- Ending Violence Association BC
- Police-based Victim Services Association of BC
- BC School Counsellors Association
- BC Association of Social Workers

### Other Provinces

ACT Alberta; Chrysalis; PACT – Ottawa; Walk with Me (Ontario); Manitoba Salvation Army.

### International Partners

Polaris Project, US Freedom Network, Payoke, European Union Study Programme.

### Foundations

National Task Force on Human Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada - an initiative of the Canadian Women's Foundation

# Appendix C

## Consultation Participants

The following organizations were invited to send delegates to attend one of three OCTIP Consultations held in Vancouver, Victoria and Prince George in 2012.

- Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Services Agencies of BC (AMSSA)
- ATIRA Women's Resource Society
- AWAC-An Assn Advocating For Women and Children
- Battered Women Support Services
- BC 211/VictimLINK
- BC Association of Social Workers
- BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres
- BC Housing
- BC Teacher's Federation
- British Columbia Institute of Technology
- Canada Border Services Agency
- Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centres
- Canadian Federation of University Women
- Caring for First Nations Children Society
- Carney Hill Neighbourhood Centre Society
- Carrier Sekani Family Services
- Communities Against Sexual Exploitation of Youth (CASEY)
- Central Vancouver Island Immigrant Welcome Centre
- Children of the Street Society
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- City of Vancouver
- Covenant House Vancouver
- Cowichan Valley Regional Victim Services
- Cowichan Women Against Violence Society
- Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth (CRAT)
- DiverseCity
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- Ending Violence Association of BC
- Family Services of Greater Vancouver
- Fraser Health Authority
- Greater Victoria Police Victim Services
- Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria
- Immigrant Multicultural Services Society
- International Institute for Child Rights and Development
- John Howard Society
- Mary Manning Centre – Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Society of Greater Victoria
- Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women
- Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
- Ministry of Children and Family Development
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
- Ministry of Labour
- Ministry of Social Development
- Ministry of Justice (Victims Services Branch, Justice Services Branch, Crown, Corrections Branch)
- Mosaic BC
- Nanaimo Haven Society
- Nanaimo Police-Based Victim Services Program
- Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC
- National Crime Prevention Centre
- New Hope Society
- Northern Health
- Prostitutes Empowerment Education Resource Society (PEERS Vancouver)
- PEERS Victoria Resource Society
- Phoenix Transition Society
- PLEA Community Services Society of BC
- Police Based Victim Services
- Prince George Métis Housing Society
- Prince George Native Friendship Centre
- Public Prosecution Service of Canada

# Appendix C Con't

## Consultation Participants

The following organizations were invited to send delegates to attend one of three OCTIP Consultations held in Vancouver, Victoria and Prince George in 2012.

- RCMP E Division
- RCMP Police Based Victim Services
- Red Cross Victoria
- Resist Exploitation Embrace Dignity (REED)
- Salvation Army
- Saulteau First Nations
- School District 57 - Prince George
- Settlement Workers in Schools
- Servants Anonymous Society
- Sisters of St. Anne
- Sisters of the Good Shepherd
- South Island Pride Centre (SIPCC)
- Stroh Health Care/City of Prince George
- Surpassing Our Survival Society
- SWAN Vancouver Society
- The Cridge Center for the Family
- University of British Columbia
- US Counsel General
- US Department of Homeland Security
- University of Victoria
- Vancouver Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services Society
- Vancouver Rape Relief
- Victoria Immigrant & Refugee Centre Society
- Victoria Native Friendship Centre
- Victoria Police Department
- Vancouver Police Department
- West Coast Domestic Workers
- West Coast LEAF
- Williams Lake Anti-Human Trafficking Committee

# Appendix D

## Train the Trainer Model Description

### OCTIP's "Train the Trainer" model of building capacity in BC communities

OCTIP's "Train the Trainer" model has been developed over five years of working with community organizations and informed by feedback from groups from all regions of British Columbia.

A local community organizing committee works with OCTIP staff to plan a two day event. Invitations are sent to local community services providers, Aboriginal organizations, First Nations bands and councils, municipal government representatives, law enforcement, schools, BC ministries, and other key community members to participate. Posters advertising the event are created and widely distributed in the community.

Over a two day gathering participants learn:

- The definition of human trafficking
- The forms of exploitation present in Canada and particularly in the region where the training is provided
- The indicators of a human trafficking incident
- Resources available to assist a trafficked person
- How to assist a trafficked person
- How to mobilize the community to prevent human trafficking
- Ways to create a local service model to assist trafficked persons based on the OCTIP Service Model
- Information about the links to gang recruiting and human trafficking

Participants map the resources available in their community, develop a local service model, identify gaps in their networks of support, and design next steps to educate their community on human trafficking and establish prevention measures.

Participants are presented with an anti-human trafficking resource kit containing DVD's, books, posters, pamphlets, and OCTIP Pocket Cards to support their local efforts.

Participants provided the following comments about the positive aspects of the Williams Lake "Train the Trainer" event held November 1st and 2nd 2012 in Williams Lake:

*"The background info you provided on OCTIP, the PowerPoint & DVD, really helped to expand my thinking around human trafficking and its relevancy to the work I do and the people I work with."*

*"Everything, it was so informative! I learned so much that I had no idea what was going on in our own back yard!"*

*"The diverse group of community services represented, as well as the strong Aboriginal presence among attendees."*

# Appendix E

## OCTIP Service Model: a Human Rights Approach

