

**B.C.'s Action Plan to Combat
Human Trafficking**

SECOND YEAR STATUS REPORT

April 2014 to April 2015

October 2015



Ministry of
Justice

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Minister's Message



The Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons (OCTIP) launched B.C.'s Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking in 2013, a framework that set out the Province's priorities over three years to 2016.

This second year status report strengthens our commitment to working together with communities and partners to prevent and respond to human trafficking in British Columbia. It provides a summary of the longer term actions taken in the past year to address five priority areas.

For example, working with our partners, we've made significant progress building local capacity in B.C. communities by holding workshops on human trafficking with service providers, police, school personnel, youth-serving agencies and Aboriginal community members.

The second edition of OCTIP's online training course Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune has also been released, providing a valuable training resource for service providers to learn the signs and indicators of human trafficking and how to use the human rights approach to ensure trafficked persons are provided with protection, services and supports.

British Columbia is a national leader in providing an effective and comprehensive response to the often hidden crime of human trafficking. The Province provides more than \$70 million in annual funding to programs across B.C. that assist victims of crime, women and children impacted by violence, and trafficked persons. Since 2011, our civil forfeiture grant program has also awarded more than \$1.7 million in grants to organizations in B.C. addressing issues of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

I would like to thank OCTIP and all partner agencies for their hard work and contributions this past year. Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery and it is imperative that we continue to work together to end this complex issue, and make B.C. a safer place for all.

Hon. Suzanne Anton
Minister of Justice

Introduction

The B.C. Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking 2013-2016 was launched in March 2013 to set a renewed three year direction for British Columbia in efforts to address human trafficking. B.C.'s Office to Combat Human Trafficking (OCTIP), part of the Ministry of Justice, coordinates British Columbia's response to human trafficking. Human trafficking is recognized globally as a form of modern-day slavery and a serious human rights violation.

The B.C. Action Plan sets out both short and long term actions to address human trafficking in five priority areas: awareness raising, training and education, community-led responses, service coordination, and policy and legislation. This status report provides a summary of the longer term actions and additional activities completed to fulfill the second year of the B.C. Action Plan from April 2014 to April 2015. The B.C. Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking can be found here: [OCTIP - Action Plan](#).

The Action Plan focuses on three identified groups: youth at risk of human trafficking for sexual exploitation, vulnerable workers at risk of human trafficking for labour exploitation, and Aboriginal communities at risk of human trafficking for sexual exploitation.

The priority groups and actions were identified by partners and community stakeholders during consultations held in 2012. Over 130 participants representing a broad range of sectors including police, Crown Counsel, community agencies, government ministries, members of the faith-based community, and academics contributed recommendations reflected in the B.C. Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking.

Many of the actions taken in the second year were supported by grant funding from the Civil Forfeiture Office through Crime Prevention and Remediation Grants. Additional funding was leveraged with support from the Department of Justice Victims Fund, and Public Safety Canada - Government of Canada. In all, the actions completed demonstrate our commitment to work with communities and partners to prevent and respond to human trafficking in British Columbia.

Priority Action 1: Raise awareness and increase public understanding of human trafficking in B.C.

Long Term Action: Increase public knowledge of human trafficking in B.C. through various awareness and education projects.

Result:

Highlights of awareness and education sessions include:

- PLEA Community Services hosted a workshop in March 2015 on B.C.'s response to human trafficking as part of Stop the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth Awareness Week. OCTIP was a keynote speaker at the Vancouver event.
- In February 2015 the BC Teachers Federation (BCTF) held a one day workshop for Lower Mainland teachers in Surrey, B.C. on sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Over 100 teachers were in attendance and a video of the session was posted on the BCTF website as a resource for teachers province-wide. A third session is being planned next year on Vancouver Island.
- The Simon Fraser University Labour Studies Program hosted a workshop on labour trafficking in October 2014. OCTIP participated in a panel discussion and provided information on B.C.'s response to human trafficking.
- The BC Society of Transition Houses Annual Training Forum included a workshop for shelter providers on indicators of human trafficking in October 2014. OCTIP, an Aboriginal Victim Service Worker and a representative of Deborah's Gate, a shelter for trafficked women co-presented the workshop.

Long Term Action: Increase the number of youth in B.C. who are aware of the dangers of human trafficking and can spot the signs of grooming and luring by human traffickers.

Result:

- Children of the Street Society delivered 617 peer-led workshops about sexual exploitation and human trafficking to over 27,190 children and

youth in B.C. schools from September 2014 to June 30 2015. Referrals to the workshops came from a variety of sources, including OCTIP and branch staff from the Ministry of Justice. Children of the Street Society is OCTIP's main partner in delivering school-based workshops on human trafficking and sexual exploitation throughout B.C. The workshops review signs of luring and grooming and provide youth with contacts for supports and resources.

- Over 100 Aboriginal youth participated in workshops about sexual exploitation and human trafficking led by Children of the Street Society, Prince George and District Elizabeth Fry Society and OCTIP at the annual Gathering Our Voices Aboriginal Youth Conference in Prince George in March 2015.

Long Term Action: Explore opportunities with First Nations and Aboriginal communities for the creation of an Aboriginal specific response to educating Aboriginal youth and community members in B.C.

Result:

- OCTIP partnered with The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) to deliver five regional workshops for Aboriginal youth on the issues of sexual exploitation and human trafficking. In addition, youth leaders from each region participated in the BCAAFC Provincial Youth and Elder Forum to build strength, resilience and leadership among Aboriginal youth to address these issues in their communities.
- The workshop included cultural teachings from elders and group activities to engage Aboriginal youth. 182 youth from around B.C. took part and learned about signs of luring and grooming for sexual exploitation and unique vulnerabilities of Aboriginal communities.

Long Term Action: Implement an informed response including material on the connections between gang activity and human trafficking, and highlight dangers of internet luring.

Result:

- Information and resources about the connections between gang activity and human trafficking are included in OCTIP's Train the Trainer workshops. For example the "Youth Gang Prevention Toolkit for Community Planning" published by the Ministry of Justice is distributed widely to B.C. Communities. For more information about the Train the Trainer workshop model see the B.C. Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking.

- Internet luring is an issue addressed in OCTIP's "Train the Trainer" workshops and in public presentations. Children of the Street Society also address this issue in workshops for youth and service providers. The "Be Safe Online" campaign developed by Children of the Street Society has been widely distributed in B.C. including posters and videos that raise awareness of this issue. OCTIP distributes this poster at workshops and public events.

Long Term Action: Increase the general knowledge of human trafficking laws in Canada by supporting the updating and distributing of the People's Law School booklet "Human Trafficking in Canada" and other measures.

Result:

- The booklet "Human Trafficking in Canada" was updated and reprinted last year. The booklet contains information about human trafficking laws in Canada. It was also translated into several languages. This year the booklet was distributed by OCTIP and branch staff at many public events, workshops and training sessions throughout B.C.

Public Awareness Highlight:

The "Get Eddie" computer game about sexual exploitation and human trafficking was tested with Lower Mainland teachers this past year. It is planned to be introduced into Vancouver schools at the grade eight and nine levels during the 2015-16 school year after final modifications are made to incorporate feedback from teachers and service providers. Other Lower Mainland school districts have also expressed interest in the game. A teachers' manual is being developed to accompany the game. Funding and content advice was provided by OCTIP to support the development and testing of this innovative learning tool for B.C. students.

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

Long Term Action: Work with Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation to train front line Ministry workers using the OCTIP online training course Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune. This action was carried forward from last year.

Result:

- In February 2015, Executive Directors and Managers from the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation received a presentation about the B.C. Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and OCTIP's online course. As a result, the Ministry's training coordinators will receive an overview of OCTIP's online course and encourage all front line staff to complete Modules 3 and 4 in the next year.

Online Training Highlight:

In 2014, nearly 5,000 people accessed the 2nd edition of OCTIP online training course "Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune" (up from 3,000 the year before), and the numbers continue to grow.

Long Term Action: Increase the number of Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch funded programs with knowledge and training on human trafficking. Increase the number of communities in B.C. with trained personnel to deliver human trafficking education and awareness sessions (ten key B.C. regions).

Result:

- A significant number of branch staff have completed OCTIP's online training course "Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune" to further integrate the issue into branch operations and additional staff have committed to completing the training this year.
- In 2014-15, OCTIP staff worked with contracted victim service providers and other service providers in four communities to increase knowledge about human trafficking indicators, OCTIP's role and mandate, and to help increase coordination of services for trafficked persons. The communities involved were: Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Chetwynd (Saulteau First Nations) and Kamloops.
- To date, seven B.C. communities have trained personnel to deliver human trafficking education and awareness sessions and these communities can now respond to situations of human trafficking. These communities have co-hosted a "Train the Trainer" workshop and implemented between four and six follow-up activities in their local community.

Long Term Action: Increase the number of Crown Counsel and other justice system partners in British Columbia with knowledge about human trafficking.

Result:

- OCTIP continued to provide workshops in B.C. communities, that Crown Counsel, police, and victim service workers attended to learn more about human trafficking. Plans to provide a Lunch and Learn session for Crown Counsel will be explored in 2015/2016 with a focus on the successful prosecution in the R.v. Moazami case. This was the first successful prosecution under the human trafficking provisions of the Criminal Code in B.C.

Long Term Action: Increase professional and industry specific training on human trafficking and encourage collaboration and partnership on the development of curriculum.

Result:

- The Fraser Health Authority distributed a toolkit for nurses with an online learning module and protocol for emergency room nurses and front line staff this year. The toolkit provides information about human trafficking indicators and resources. OCTIP posted a link to this important new resource

on the OCTIP website. The toolkit can be accessed here: [Fraser Health Authority Toolkit](#).

Partnership Highlights:

"Deborah's Gate is pleased to partner with the BC Ministry of Justice Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons. We have found them to be a wonderful resource and connection point across our province to services and key resources for trafficked persons. This past year we have had the opportunity to present together at many events to speak about collaborative efforts in BC, raise awareness, and work together on supporting trafficked persons who are accessing Ministry of Justice or Victim Link resources. We are thankful for their continued support and ongoing development throughout our province."

**Larissa Maxwell, Manager,
Anti-Human Trafficking Programs, The Salvation Army**

"The only way to address the issue of human trafficking in an effort to prevent it is to collaborate. Cohesion is the best way to be successful in our efforts and we are proud to have a strong partnership with the Office to Combat Trafficking In Persons. We value the partnership the government has with NGOs and non-profits like ours and know that it is partnerships like these that are essential to preventing human trafficking and sexual exploitation."

**Kev Lescisin, Program Coordinator
Children of the Street Society**

"Partnering with the Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons brought to our community an increased awareness and knowledge of human trafficking and what it looks like in northern communities, we also received the tools, skills and confidence to address human trafficking and work together to address this crime against humanity."

**Karima Beaucauge
Community Based Victim Services
Prince George & District Elizabeth Fry Society**

Priority Action 3: Empower and build capacity in local B.C. communities (including Aboriginal communities) to prevent human trafficking and provide assistance to trafficked persons

Long Term Action: Work with communities to develop anti-human trafficking resource kits to assist with local prevention and awareness initiatives. Include information, materials, resources and promising practices from human trafficking and sexual exploitation projects in B.C.

Result:

- In March 2015, OCTIP published a new online toolkit called: “Communities Taking Action: A Toolkit to Address Human Trafficking”. The toolkit is available on the OCTIP website and features stories from B.C. communities who are working to address this issue. The OCTIP toolkit includes information on human trafficking, a PowerPoint that community members can use, posters, materials, resources and promising practices. The toolkit can be accessed here: [OCTIP Training Toolkit](#).
- Awareness materials on human trafficking were provided at public events and workshops this year including in Quesnel, Prince Rupert, Chetwynd (Saulteau First Nation) and Kamloops. These materials were used to assist with local prevention and awareness initiatives in these communities.

Long Term Action: Explore the development and implementation of local safety audits and comprehensive community action plans to address human trafficking in B.C. communities.

Civil Forfeiture Office (CFO) Grant Funding Highlight:

Since 2011, OCTIP has provided more than \$1.7M to organizations in B.C. to address issue of human trafficking and sexual exploitation through civil forfeiture proceeds. In 2014/15, \$457,445 was provided in CFO grant funding to support 22 projects to prevent the sexual exploitation and human trafficking of vulnerable girls and women. This year, CFO grant funding was targeted at a number of initiatives related to addressing violence against women, including dedicated funding to support community projects that prevent sexual exploitation and human trafficking of vulnerable girls and women, in particular, the prevention of domestic trafficking of Aboriginal girls and women.

Priority Action 4: Increase coordination of services to address the unique needs of trafficked persons in B.C. communities, emphasizing culturally appropriate responses

Long Term Action: 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.

Result:

- In April 2015, OCTIP partnered with Children of the Street Society on a project to improve the coordination between youth-serving organizations and the criminal justice system regarding human trafficking cases. The goal is to better assist children and youth who may be victims of human trafficking. This project will develop training materials on human trafficking laws and successful convictions in Canada related to the sexual exploitation and human trafficking of youth. Training and local protocols are planned to be delivered in Phase II. The project will strengthen coordination between community agencies working with vulnerable children and youth in B.C. and police, Crown Counsel and victim service providers. Funding was provided by the Department of Justice Victim’s Fund.

Long Term Action: Support local communities in developing a sustainable service model for assisting trafficked persons based on OCTIP's Service Model. Ensure culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal communities are incorporated into local community service models where appropriate.

Result:

- OCTIP worked with four key communities in B.C. this year to help them develop a local service model for assisting trafficked persons. The communities of Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Chetwynd (including the Sauteau First Nation) and Kamloops participated in a Train the Trainer workshop to identify local resources and build a local service model with community agencies, schools, police and Aboriginal community members.
- Culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal communities and new immigrant communities were included in the development of these local service models. Issues related to the language and cultural needs of temporary foreign workers, new immigrants, refugees, international students and others were addressed where possible.

Priority Action 5: Increase research, policy and legislative responses to human trafficking in B.C.

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

Long Term Action:

- Increase understanding about the situation of temporary foreign workers and other vulnerable workers in B.C.
- Collaborate on effective methods to prevent and eliminate labour trafficking in B.C.

Result:

- OCTIP assisted in securing funding from Public Safety Canada for West Coast Domestic Workers Association (WCDWA) to develop and deliver a labour

trafficking project from 2014-16. The new project will raise awareness about labour trafficking through the creation of a Public Service Announcement about labour trafficking in Canada. A film documentary about the experience of labour trafficking victims will be produced at the end of the project. WCDWA will also hold legal information sessions to educate vulnerable workers about their rights in Canada and the human trafficking laws. This project will educate social service agencies and networks of support that temporary foreign workers utilize. A focus of this work will be to raise awareness about the vulnerabilities of temporary workers to situations of human trafficking and to provide supports and services for protection and assistance.

Long Term Action: Increase information and knowledge about domestic trafficking of Aboriginal youth and women in B.C. Support B.C.-focused research on domestic trafficking of Aboriginal youth and women.

Result:

- OCTIP provides information and increases knowledge about the domestic trafficking of Aboriginal youth and women in B.C. by funding and facilitating "Train the Trainer" workshops in local B.C. communities. These workshops include a specific presentation on the unique vulnerabilities of Aboriginal girls and women to human trafficking which assists local service providers to gain knowledge about domestic trafficking. Four Train the Trainer workshops were held in 2014-15 and three more are planned for 2015-2016 in B.C. communities.
- The B.C. Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres completed a CFO funded project on this issue in 2014-2015. This report called "Our Spirits Are Not For Sale" provides valuable research and information on domestic trafficking. OCTIP will explore continued partnership opportunities with the B.C. Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres to address this important issue.

Long Term Action: Increase policy and legislative protections for trafficked persons in B.C. to give full effect to their internationally protected human rights.

Result:

- OCTIP represents British Columbia on the *Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group on Human Trafficking* chaired by Public Safety Canada to coordinate efforts across Canada to prevent and address human trafficking.

- OCTIP participated in Federal/Provincial/Territorial conference calls on Bill C-36 regarding the purchase and selling of sexual services. The revised offences relate to the exploitation of prostitution in areas of trafficking in persons, receiving a material benefit from prostitution and procuring of sexual services. Links between these new federal amendments to the Criminal Code of Canada and human trafficking were explored.

Long Term Action: Identify opportunities to expand services to trafficked persons who may face language and cultural barriers.

Result:

- OCTIP continues to provide translated materials on human trafficking for service providers and police in order to expand services to trafficked persons who may face language and cultural barriers.
- VictimLink BC offers free interpretation services for victims of human trafficking who contact OCTIP's toll free number and provide timely referrals to culturally appropriate services. OCTIP's toll free line is widely distributed via pocket cards that have been translated into 14 languages.
- OCTIP is supporting a B.C. government-led initiative to increase settlement services to temporary foreign workers who may be vulnerable to human trafficking. In particular temporary foreign workers will be informed of their rights in Canada and connected to services, such as Employment Standards, OCTIP and others for assistance.

Conclusion

OCTIP, in collaboration with our partners and stakeholders, has successfully implemented many of the long term actions in the B.C. Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking 2013-2016. Additional long term actions will be implemented by March 2016.

We would like to express our appreciation to the many community agencies, police, Crown Counsel, federal prosecutors, service providers and citizens who continue to work with us to bring awareness to and combat human trafficking in British Columbia.

B.C.'s Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons

For assistance with coordination of services for trafficked persons, please call toll-free/ 24 Hrs: 1-888-712-7974 (interpretation available).

OCTIP Office Contact:

Phone: 1-604-660-5199 E-mail: octip@gov.bc.ca

Website: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octip