

Engaging Newcomers to Canada and Temporary Foreign Workers



Why

Newcomers to Canada and foreign workers have unique risk factors for exploitation and human trafficking. So it makes sense to connect with these groups when you address human trafficking in your community.

Newcomers include immigrants and refugees who have full status in Canada, but are in the early stages of settling into their new country.

Foreign workers include nannies, live in caregivers, temporary foreign workers, seasonal agricultural workers and others with a work permit who have less than permanent status in Canada. Their work permit allows them to live and work in Canada for a certain period of time; however, it does not allow them to permanently stay in Canada. Visitors, international students and sponsored spouses also face risk factors, as traffickers can exploit their temporary status or conditional status in Canada using the fear of deportation as a powerful tool of control.

Canadian work permits issued to temporary foreign workers require the worker to work for only one employer, increasing isolation and opportunities for exploitation.

Many newcomers and foreign workers are members of culturally and racially diverse communities who struggle with the effects of marginalization, prejudice, and discrimination in Canada. The stressors that immigrants and refugees face upon arrival to Canada may increase their vulnerabilities. As newcomers, they must learn a new language, new customs, and a new culture. Many feel isolated, and lament the loss of cultural identity and community connections.

Many families also face high levels of poverty in Canada that may place youth at a greater risk of exploitation. Young newcomers are often caught between wanting to fit in with new Canadian friends and the culture of their parents. These youth can become disconnected from their families, which makes them vulnerable to exploitation and human traffickers who may offer them gifts, drugs, expensive clothing, jewelry or other items as part of the grooming and luring process.

For all of these reasons, individuals that belong to newcomer communities, temporary foreign workers and those with less than permanent status in Canada can face unique risk factors of human trafficking and exploitation.

Temporary Foreign Workers:

Are foreign nationals hired by Canadians under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) to fill temporary labour and skill shortages in the workforce that result from a lack of qualified Canadian citizens and permanent residents.

Why →

Generally, it's a healthy and preventative measure to retain one's cultural identity and find strength in community connections. Opportunities to reach out and connect with newcomers and temporary foreign workers, as well as others in your community who may have less than permanent status in Canada, will end their isolation and help protect against exploitation and human trafficking.

How →

- Offer a safe and welcoming environment to newcomers and temporary foreign workers. You can be friendly to a new face in the community, and help a newly arrived immigrant or refugee connect with others in your community or neighbourhood.
- Provide culturally competent services and programs that cater to a diverse range of groups and individuals in your community. Try to provide information in a variety of other languages about services and programs in your community. You may need to consider providing interpretation for those with low levels of English.
- Make connections with members of other cultural and diverse groups within your community to enrich the social fabric and decrease isolation and stigma. Reach out to these groups when planning events related to human trafficking awareness raising and training.
- Encourage community organizations that offer cultural programs and services for diverse ethnic minorities to make sure these groups are aware of the programs and services they offer. Programming can help connect those members of the community that might feel isolated or marginalized—but news of the programming needs to reach them.

What →

Here are some resources that you can use to help engage newcomers or temporary foreign workers from another country in your community. A trafficked person who cannot speak the local language is likely to be more vulnerable to control by a trafficker. By finding an interpreter, or providing translated materials, you reduce the language barrier and break one of the invisible chains traffickers use to control and manipulate their victims.

1. Temporary Resident Permits:

A trafficked person from another country may be eligible to apply for a temporary resident permit (VTIP TRP) to allow them to obtain temporary status in Canada while they assess their options. The VTIP TRP is obtained from Citizenship and Immigration Canada. For more information about the temporary resident permit, please review [OCTIP's Online Training – Module 2, Temporary Resident Permits](#).

2. Translated Material:

For translated materials and other information that may assist in providing information and reaching out to vulnerable groups and individuals, including foreign workers, please refer to these resources below:

What →

- OCTIP's "Do You Feel Trapped?" poster is available in several languages.

[Do You Feel Trapped](#) provides information about domestic servitude as a form of human trafficking. It can be posted in community centres, libraries, public venues, schools and other community agencies in an effort to educate your community about this form of human trafficking.

- OCTIP's Pocket Cards are offered in 14 languages.

The [OCTIP Pocket Card](#) describes what human trafficking is and the forms exploitation can take, as well as the supports available to a trafficked person. It is available in 14 languages. It provides a BC toll free help line for trafficked persons which offers interpretation services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

TAKING ACTION:

South Vancouver Community Policing Centre Develops Prevention Guide

"Sexual Exploitation – It Can Happen to You! A Guide for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking of International Students"

South Vancouver Community Policing Centre, with the support of the South Vancouver Community Crime Prevention Society and the British Columbia Ministry of Justice, developed this resource guide. The guide provides youth who are newcomers to Canada with the necessary information and knowledge to help them keep safe in their new communities. It sets out the risk factors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation associated with being a newcomer youth in Canada. The guide aims to educate and raise awareness about ways to prevent human trafficking and sexual exploitation of international students.

<http://vancouver.ca/police/assets/pdf/brochures/south-van-cpc-sex-exploit-guide.pdf>

- WE CAN HELP

[OCTIP's Information Sheets](#) are designed with the help of translators and service providers to provide potentially trafficked persons with information about their situation and the help that is available to them. Multiple language versions are available.

- West Coast Domestic Workers' Association (Fact Sheets)

West Coast Domestic Workers Association (WCDWA) is a non-profit association that provides advocacy, counselling and support to live-in caregivers and temporary foreign workers based in British Columbia. A series of Fact Sheets provides legal information about related topics including work permits, temporary foreign workers in Canada, the live-in caregiver program and the complaint process under the *Employment Standards Act* of British Columbia for recovery of unpaid wages and overtime etc.

<http://www.wcdwa.ca/fact-sheets/>

What →

- "Modern Day Slavery" by MOSAIC and West Coast Domestic Workers Association

The [Modern Day Slavery](#) publication raises awareness about human trafficking. It describes how people can be trafficked, and the particular vulnerabilities of foreign workers to labour exploitation. The publication provides information and resources for trafficked persons and for

frontline workers; and it is available in Chinese, Filipino, Punjabi, Spanish, and English.

- **Human Trafficking in Canada, People's Law School (2014)**

The [Human Trafficking in Canada](#) booklet provides general information about human trafficking, how the law responds to human trafficking, what governments are doing, and, what you can do. The booklet is available in English, French, Punjabi, Spanish, Tagalog , and Chinese.

3. Interpretation Services:

A trafficked person who cannot speak the local language is likely to be more vulnerable to control by a trafficker.

By finding an interpreter, or providing translated materials, you remove the language barrier and break one of the many invisible chains traffickers use to control and manipulate people.

Remember that difficulties with language are not restricted to those who have been trafficked into Canada from another country: there are many areas of Canada where people speak only one or the other of our official languages, and there are a number of Canadian citizens or permanent residents who do not speak either. In addition, a person who is hearing impaired may need a sign-language interpreter.

Note: Even if you have no immediate access to an interpreter, do not ask anyone accompanying the person to interpret: he or she could be the trafficker.

For more information, read about [Interpretation Services](#) in the OCTIP course.

For telephone or in-person interpretation and translation services, please see the resources listed below:

a. **Telelanguage** – <http://telelanguage.com/>

b. **VictimLink BC** – <http://www.victimlinkbc.ca/>

VictimLink BCprovides information and referral services for victims of family and sexual violence and all other crimes. VictimLink BC is toll-free, province-wide, and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you require assistance, please call VictimLink BC at 1-800-563-0808. VictimLink BC is TTY accessible. Call TTY at 604-875-0885; to call collect, please call the Telus Relay Service at 711. Text 604-836-6381. Email VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca

c. **Languageline Solutions** – <http://www.languageline.com/>

d. **Mosaic Interpretation** – <http://www.mosaic-trans.com/mosaic-language-services/translation-and-interpretation/interpretation-0>

What →

Reflecting

1. Are culturally oriented community events or programs offered in our community?
2. Does our community offer settlement services, English language classes to newcomers?
3. What are some key services and programs that offer support and community engagement for immigrants and refugees in our community?
4. Who's a new face in our community? Are any temporary foreign workers in our community? International students? Sponsored spouses?
5. What can I and other community members do to break down the isolation and build connections to newcomers and temporary foreign workers?
6. Are there programs for youth that young newcomers can be invited to participate in?