



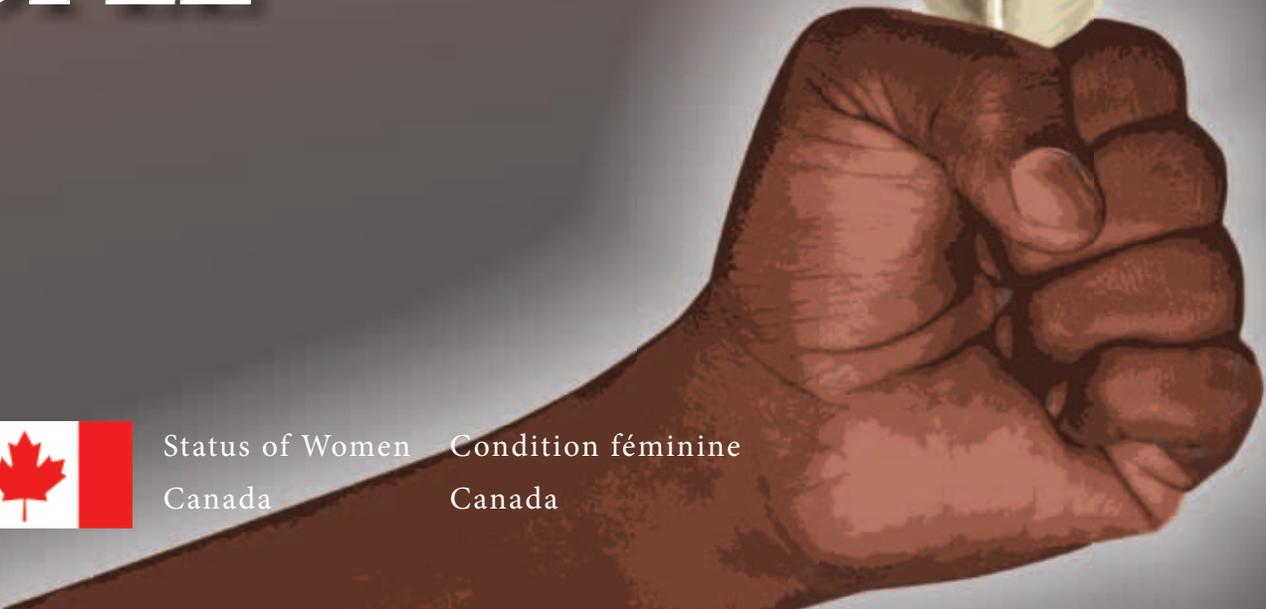
ASSEMBLY
OF **MANITOBA CHIEFS**

STAND STRONG

**PREVENT HUMAN
TRAFFICKING**

STOP

**THE SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION OF
FIRST NATIONS
PEOPLE**



Status of Women Condition féminine
Canada Canada

SEX SLAVES ON WINNIPEG STREETS



The sexual enslavement of women and children is a global human rights issue in our own backyard. Manitobans and Canadians need not look to countries notorious for human trafficking for sexual exploitation, like Thailand, or developing countries, they only need to look at the streets of Winnipeg and other cities, especially those in Western Canada.

The "Stop Sex with Kids" campaign website explains "sexual exploitation" as "the exchange of sex for food, shelter, drugs/alcohol, money and/or approval. Sexual exploitation is not a lifestyle choice — it's child abuse." Statistics at that site paint a picture of the extent of this abuse on the streets of Winnipeg and Manitoba: there are approximately 400 children and youth being sexually exploited on the streets of Winnipeg each year; 13 years old is the average age that children reported their first experience of being exploited; most (85-90 per cent) of sexually exploited children/youth are female; 70-80 per cent of adults involved in the sex trade were first exploited under the age of 18; most (70-80 per cent) of the children and youth exploited in Manitoba are of aboriginal descent; and about 72 per cent were in the care of Child and Family Services.

There is probably little understanding of what human trafficking is and the full extent to which it is occurring in Canada. There is no universally accepted definition of human trafficking, but essentially it refers to the recruitment, transportation and harbouring of a person for the purposes of forced slavery, including the use of threat of force, deception, position of vulnerability, committed without the free and informed consent of the trafficked person. Human trafficking is often referred to as the modern day slave trade, and it is now viewed as a fundamental human rights issue.

The February 2009 United Nations Global Report on Trafficking in Persons found that the most common form of human trafficking (79 per cent) is sexual exploitation. That same report found that victims are predominantly women and girls; most trafficking is national or regional; and that the Americas are prominent both as the origin and destination of victims in the human trade.

U.S. and Canadian federal departmental reports document that aboriginal women and girls are at greater risk of becoming victims of trafficking within and outside Canada for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. Other research confirms trafficking between Canadian cities, especially those in the west, including Winnipeg, where there are networks.

It is time for Manitobans to become aware of this growing national problem. How many missing women and children are victims of human trafficking? In Manitoba, the provincial strategy on youth and child sexual exploitation was launched in 2002. At a November 13, 2008 Stop Sex with Kids Awareness Campaign event, and at a Roundtable on Sexual Exploitation of Youth and Children, both hosted by the province, myself and AMC representatives expressed the need for this strategy to reach on-reserve and for immediate federal action on this issue.

While most of Canada's efforts have been on punitive approaches to those caught human trafficking, public awareness is essential in protecting our most vulnerable citizens from modern day slavery.

I urge all young people to be aware. Human trafficking is not just something that happens overseas. It is here in Canada, and it usually starts with someone you trust, someone who promises you a better life, a new job, a new start. They'll find you in the city and even in a First Nation community. Be suspicious of anyone making you promises that sound too good to be true. Thoroughly check out anyone who approaches you with job offers that are vague — if you have access to the Internet, Google their company; get a phone number to call; or quite simply, ask people you know if they know anything about that company. If you feel you are in immediate danger, call the police.

There are ways to protect yourself and those you love from becoming victims. A growing awareness of human trafficking is critical in the overall effort to preventing human trafficking and stopping sexual exploitation. ✍️

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The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs brought the issue of human trafficking to the public's attention hosting the "Prevent Human Trafficking; Stop the Sexual Exploitation of First Nations Women and Children" forum on July 8th & 9th, 2009 at the Canad Inns Fort Garry.

The forum was attended by law enforcement, provincial child welfare and justice officials and front line workers from social service agencies who registered for the conference and shared their expertise. The forum also drew Canadian Senators from Ottawa, law enforcement, front line workers and victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Many presenters and guests appeared, most notably University of British Columbia law professor Benjamin Perrin, a leading expert and researcher and co-founder of the advocacy organization The Future Group and Natasha Falle, a former sex trafficking victim who now runs the organization Sextrade 101: Public Education and Awareness.

Joy Smith, Member of Parliament for Kidonan-St. Paul and one of Canada's leading experts and speakers on this issue brought her network of contacts to the forum. Her Private Members Bill, Bill C-268, An Act to Amend the Criminal Code of Canada to introduce mandatory minimum sentences for offenders convicted of trafficking minors received Royal Assent on June 29, 2010, making the Bill official law.

As a result of the forum, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs has forged a strong working relationship with stakeholders to put an end to human trafficking in this city and in this country.

With forums like this, First Nations gather strength through partnerships with social service agencies, police forces and political leaders everywhere who share our goals of preventing human trafficking and stopping the sexual exploitation of First Nations people.

The nature of sex trafficking makes partnerships critical with all levels of government, frontline agencies, the research community, the non-profit sector and the victims and their families if we are to succeed and put a halt to sex trafficking.



First Nations can offer our experience as a contribution to advance the understanding of the toll of human trafficking but this campaign must go beyond talking and must result in action.

The forum kicked off a year-long initiative by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs to bring awareness to the growing issue of human trafficking. The forum garnered much media attention which significantly raised the profile of this horrendous issue that is happening here in Winnipeg and across Canada.

The second phase of the prevent human trafficking initiative involved the establishment of AMC's Prevent Human Trafficking Working Group. The working group is comprised of First Nations leadership, law enforcement, supporting agencies, community members, front line workers, and other stakeholders from both the Provincial and Federal government who have worked to address this very serious issue in partnership with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.

The First Nations leadership participating in the working group includes Chief Donovan Fontaine, Chief Francine Meeches and Chief Debbie Chief. Elder Thelma Meade also plays a vital role in the working group providing guidance, support and experience.

The working group developed a First Nations specific anti-trafficking strategy which includes an education and awareness campaign and resources for First Nations communities to address this issue.

The anti-trafficking strategy has been developed and focuses on prevention, protection and intervention.

The third phase of the prevent human trafficking initiative is underway with education and awareness workshops being held in First Nations communities. A province wide education and awareness campaign is also being launched by the AMC to ensure that the public is aware of this horrendous issue that is affecting all Canadians.

As part of AMC's anti-trafficking strategy, the Stop Human Trafficking Walk was held on Saturday, May 8, 2010 in conjunction with Joy Smith, Member of Parliament for Kildonan-St. Paul at the Manitoba Legislature. Nearly 1,000 people came out to support the event, and walked to stop trafficking in Canada. The event received major local and national media attention focusing on the severity of domestic sex trafficking in Canada and the impacts on First Nations people.

The walk was followed by a "Voices of Victims" seminar where former victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation shared their stories and how they are advocating for those still involved.

On June 24th, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs hosted the National Day of Action at Memorial Park which included education and awareness on human trafficking as well as a unity walk to the Legislative Building to raise awareness on this issue as it is affecting First Nations people.

The AMC took part in the launch of the third phase of the Stop Sex with Kids Campaign by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection and the Province of Manitoba's department of Family Services and Consumer Affairs' Strategy Responding to Children and Youth at Risk of, or Survivors of, Sexual Exploitation.

The AMC continues to advocate for a national anti-trafficking strategy to be implemented by the Federal government and for additional resources to be allocated to Federal and Provincial departments, organizations and policing agencies to address human trafficking and sexual exploitation and participates on the Sexually Exploited Youth Coalition of Manitoba as well as the Human Trafficking Response Team.

The AMC continues to use media outlets to advocate and raise awareness including AMC's A Vision For All radio program aired every Wednesday at 6pm on NCI FM reaching all 64 First Nations in

Manitoba and all urban centres. Creating awareness and dialogue is critical in ensuring that people have the necessary tools to protect themselves.

DEFINITION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human Trafficking doesn't just occur internationally; it is happening here in our country, in our province, our cities and in our communities. The majority of the victims are women and children.

In 2000, the United Nations Conference held in Palermo, Italy established the definition of Human Trafficking that is most widely used across the world, as part of the Palermo Protocol to Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons:

Human Trafficking involves, the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by the means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

Many victims of human trafficking are forced into prostitution, labour, or some other form of servitude. This is a global human rights issue and is often referred to as modern-day slavery.

DEFINITION OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Sex trafficking is a form of sexual exploitation and is defined as "the exchange of sex for food, shelter, drugs/alcohol, money and or approval" (Stop Sex with Kids Campaign). "Sexual exploitation is not a lifestyle choice — it's child abuse."

Statistics from the Stop Sex with Kids Campaign:

- Approximately 400 children and youth are being sexually exploited on the streets of Winnipeg every year
- 13 is the average age that children report their first experience of being exploited .
- 85-95% of the children being sexually exploited are female
- 70-80% of the children being exploited are Aboriginal
- 72% of the children being exploited are in the care of Child and Family Services

Human Trafficking is:

The second largest illegal market in the world after drugs and fire arms. It is estimated that 800,000 people are trafficked around the world every year. Organized crime generates \$12 billion (USD) from human trafficking every year.

Impact on First Nations:

U.S. and Canadian Federal departmental reports document that Aboriginal women and girls are at greatest risk of becoming victims of trafficking domestically (within Canada) and outside of Canada for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation.

First Nations are most vulnerable to sex trafficking and sexual exploitation due to the health and socio-economic disparities that separate First Nations from the rest of Canadians.

Root Causes:

- Poverty
- Lack of educational and training opportunities
- Lack of recreational opportunities
- Inequalities (based on gender and nationality)
- Racism
- Increased demand for low cost labour and services
- Socio-economic disparities including impacts of colonization and residential schools, domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, crime and gang involvement, and inadequate services to assist and support youth.

What to be Aware of:

According to the RCMP, victims of trafficking can be found in: commercial sex or prostitution, domestic care giving, sweatshop factories, construction, farming or landscaping, fisheries, hotel or tourism industries, panhandling, janitorial services, and restaurant services.

Human trafficking can occur wherever the demand for services exists. This includes urban centres such as Winnipeg, Thompson and Brandon and communities such as rural and First Nations communities.

We encourage everyone to be aware of the issue of human trafficking and to educate others about this horrendous practice. Raising awareness is key to preventing human trafficking and stopping sexual exploitation.

Legislation

On November 25, 2005 the Criminal Code of Canada was amended to include the following three trafficking related offences:

Trafficking in Persons (s.279.01)

Material Benefit (s.279.02)

Withholding or destroying documents (s.279.03)

On June 29, 2010, Bill C-268, An Act to Amend the Criminal Code of Canada, which introduced mandatory minimum sentences of five years for the trafficking of minors and six year minimum sentences for cases involving aggravated offences, received Royal Assent by the Governor General of Canada, officially making the bill law.

Bill C-268 is a step towards protecting our most vulnerable women and children from being victimized by this crime and is now part of the legal foundation that will hold predators accountable.

By raising awareness of this issue we can prevent human trafficking and stop the sexual exploitation of our First Nations people.

It is important to understand and be aware of the issue of human trafficking and to help others understand what it is and involves.

We each have a responsibility to protect one another. If you suspect or know of human trafficking activities occurring please contact your local Police or RCMP. If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. 



RESOURCES FOR VICTIMS

EAGLE Urban Transition Centre

501-286 Smith Street

(204) 954-3050

Provides services to First Nations moving from their communities to the city.

Ka Ni Kanichihk

455 McDermot Avenue

(204) 953-5820

Provides culturally based education, training and employment, leadership and community development and healing and wellness programs and services.

Honouring the Spirit of Our Little Sisters: Safe Transition Home, Winnipeg

Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata

(204) 925-1778

A safe transition home for female and transgender youth, 13-17, who are being subjected to sexual exploitation.

Macdonald Youth Services — Youth Resource Centre/Shelter (YRC)

161 Mayfair Avenue

(204) 477-1804

Offers short term overnight emergency shelter for up to eight youth, ages 12-17, per night. Also offers a Youth Emergency Crisis Stabilization System (949-4777) for youth under 18 and their families.

Marymound Treatment Program for Sexually Exploited Youth

442 Scotia Street

(204) 338-7971

Referral through Child Welfare only. A group care facility specifically designed for girls who have been sexually abused, including sexual exploitation.

Ndinawe (Our Relatives Home) Winnipeg Youth Resource Center

(204) 589-5545

Offers culturally based community programs to marginalized youth. Ndinawe also offers a Youth Safe Home (586-2588) for one day to three months and a Youth Outreach Program (589-5545) offering culturally based short term supports for youth aged 11-18.

Dream Catchers, Winnipeg

KLINIC Community Health Centre

870 Portage Avenue

(204) 784-4090

Runs two groups for sexually exploited youth.

Resource Assistance for Youth—R.A.Y.

195 Young Street

(204) 783-5617

Drop-in center and outreach program for street youth of all ages.

Sage House, Winnipeg

(204) 943-6379

Run by Mount Carmel Clinic. Offers a drop-in, health and outreach program for street involved females and transgender adults.

Transition, Education and Resources for Females (TERF)

400-491 Portage Avenue

(204) 786-7051

A transition program for sexually exploited female and transgender youth ages 13-17. Also offers the TERM Mentorship Program which serves both males and females 8-17 years with intensive one-on-one support.

Beyond Borders

387 Broadway Avenue
(204) 452-1333

www.beyondborders.org

A not-for-profit advocacy organization promoting global justice for children.

Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc.

615 Academy Road
(204) 945-5735

www.protectchildren.ca

Advocacy group to reduce incidents of sexually exploited children, educate the public, assist in location of missing children, and advocate for increased awareness of child sexual exploitation.

Core Competency Based Provincial Training Center

(204) 945-2040

Six day specialized training for front line workers with sexually exploited youth.

Crime Stoppers

1-800-222-TIPS (8477)

Cybertip.ca

1-866-658-9022

Canada's national tipline for child pornography, luring, child sex tourism and child sexual exploitation.

Hope for the Sold

Hopeforthesold.com

Manitoba Strategy Responding to Sexually Exploited Children

(204) 945-6964 or (204) 945-5055

www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childfam/strategy_on_sexual_exploitation.html

Provides a complete listing of available resources.

Maytree Foundation

www.maytree.com

My Canada

Motivated Young People for a Strong Canada:

www.4mycanada.ca

Native Womens Transition Center

(204) 989-8240

www.nativewomens.mb.ca

Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons B.C.

(250) 953-4970

www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octip/about/htm

RCMP Immigration & Passport Program Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre Headquarters

(613) 993-2325

www.rcmp.gc.ca

Sextrade101:

Public Education and Awareness

www.Sextrade101.com

Stop Sex with Kids Campaign

www.stopsexwithkids.ca

Stop the Traffik

www.stophetraffik.org

The Future Group

Thefuturegroup.org

UBC, Professor Benjamin Perrin:

www.law.ubc.ca/faculty/Perrin/

United Nations

www.un.org



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