

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

ONE YEAR STATUS REPORT

March 2013 to April 2014

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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 the next three years.

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

*For example, working with our partners, we've made significant progress in raising awareness of this complex issue through the distribution of brochures and posters in five different languages. In addition, the launch of the second edition of OCTIP's online training course *Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune* has meant that more service providers have received training in this important area.*

British Columbia is a national leader when it comes to providing an effective and comprehensive response to the often hidden crime of human trafficking. Much has been accomplished in the past year and we will continue to take action as we work through the remaining two years of the plan.

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 remain committed to addressing this complex issue.

We will continue to work together to make B.C. a safer place for all.

Hon. Suzanne Anton
Attorney General and 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 B.C.'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 one year status report provides a summary of the immediate (within 12 months) actions and additional activities completed to fulfill the first year of the B.C. Action Plan from March 2013 to April 2014. The B.C. Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking can be [found here](#).

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 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, Public Safety Canada - Government of Canada, the Canadian Women's Foundation, and WelcomeBC. 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.

Action: 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 B.C. schools.

Result:

- Children of the Street Society delivered 655 peer-led workshops about sexual exploitation and human trafficking to over 27,000 youth in B.C. schools from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014. Referrals to the workshops came from a variety of sources, including OCTIP and branch staff at the Ministry of Justice.
- Over 100 Aboriginal youth participated in workshops about sexual exploitation and human trafficking led by Children of the Street Society and OCTIP at the annual Gathering Our Voices Aboriginal Youth Conference.

Action: Support the development and testing of an innovative computer-based game on human trafficking aimed at youth.

Result:

- The “Get Eddie” computer game is currently in the final pilot testing stage and has been accepted for introduction into Vancouver schools at the grade eight and nine levels. 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.

Action: Increase the number of teachers in B.C. who are aware of human trafficking indicators and prevention methods by providing funding and support to the BC Teachers’ Federation workshop on human trafficking.

Result:

- Thirty-six Aboriginal teachers from northern schools in B.C. were trained at a one day session in Prince George about human trafficking indicators and prevention methods organized by the BC Teachers Federation.
- Twelve social studies teachers from around the province attended a workshop on human trafficking and sexual exploitation by Children of the Street Society and OCTIP at the BC Social Studies Teachers Association Conference in Vancouver.
- BC Teachers Federation received funding for a workshop for Lower Mainland teachers on sexual exploitation and human trafficking to be held in Surrey later this year.

Public Awareness Highlights:

A booklet on Canada’s laws on human trafficking called “Human Trafficking in Canada” was updated and translated into five languages this year including French, Chinese, Punjabi, Tagalog (Filipino), and Spanish. This publication is widely distributed by OCTIP at public presentations. B.C.’s People’s Law School was a key partner in this initiative.

Legal information regarding labour exploitation and human trafficking in Canada was provided to over 200 live-in caregivers, their networks of social supports, and service providers in 15 B.C. communities as part of OCTIP’s Preventing Labour Exploitation and Human Trafficking Project. OCTIP partnered with West Coast Domestic Workers Association on the project.

“Do You Feel Trapped”, a new poster addressing domestic servitude as a form of human trafficking was produced and translated into five languages as an outreach tool for domestic workers in B.C. The poster provides OCTIP’s 1-800 help-line for 24 hour support in situations of human trafficking and is being widely distributed through various networks.

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

Action: 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 B.C. and Canadian stakeholders (10,000 bookmarks to be distributed).

Result:

- The second edition of OCTIP's online training course *Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune* was publicly re-launched in April 2014. The updated course includes new information on human trafficking laws in Canada, a national list of resources on human trafficking, stories from trafficked persons, and a certificate of completion for service providers to recognize their professional development in this area.
- Over 5,000 promotional bookmarks advertising the OCTIP online training course were distributed throughout B.C. and nationally.
- Organizations in B.C. and across Canada that have linked to the OCTIP training website include: Clicklaw BC, Canadian Council of Refugees, RCMP Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre, Act Alberta, UBC Liu Institute of Global Studies, Public Safety Canada, and CATHII(Quebec).

Since April 2012, 9,089 people have accessed the OCTIP online training course, *Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune*. Between 2011 and 2013 OCTIP, acknowledged 240 people who had completed the OCTIP training and requested a formal notification for professional development requirements. In the first two months of the re-launched second edition of the OCTIP online training, nearly 100 people have completed it, with 24 Certificates of Completion printed from the training site.

Action: Work with Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation to train front line workers using the OCTIP online training course *Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune*.

Result:

- Training Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation's front line staff on indicators of human trafficking is carried forward to 2014-15 and expanded to include offering the training to five other Ministry partners who provide front line services. These staff will be encouraged to complete the updated second edition of OCTIP's online training course to learn more about the indicators of human trafficking and ways to offer appropriate assistance to potentially trafficked persons whom they may encounter.

Action: Increase the number of staff in 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.

Result:

- In 2014, OCTIP staff met with contracted service providers in ten communities around the province to increase knowledge about human trafficking indicators, OCTIP's role and mandate, and to help increase coordination of services for trafficked persons. OCTIP staff travelled to the following communities: Fort St. John, Dawson Creek, Cranbrook, Victoria, Nanaimo, Prince Rupert, Prince George, Quesnel, Sauleau First Nation, and Kamloops.

- Quarterly reminders to complete the OCTIP online training course are provided to contracted program staff. A certificate of completion for professional development recognition can now be downloaded from the OCTIP training site offering additional incentive to service providers and contracted program staff to complete the training. Completion rates for the online training course are currently being tracked by the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch.

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

Result:

- OCTIP partnered with federal and provincial prosecutors in 2014 to provide province-wide training for British Columbia Crown counsel and immigration lawyers on human trafficking laws in Canada.
- OCTIP met with Vancouver-based victim service programs network to provide information about human trafficking in an effort to increase knowledge about human trafficking among community-based victim service programs.

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 developed a toolkit/online learning module and protocol for emergency room nurses and front line staff about the indicators of human trafficking with OCTIP's support and input. The toolkit will be publicly released in the coming months and nurses and emergency room staff throughout the Fraser Health Authority region will be trained using this unique British Columbia-based tool. This toolkit will also be made available to the BC Ambulance Service.

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

Action: Increase capacity in B.C. communities to prevent and address human trafficking by facilitating a “Train the Trainer” event in northern British Columbia, including Aboriginal and rural communities.

Result:

- In 2013-14, OCTIP implemented six community “Train the Trainer” workshops on human trafficking in B.C., mainly in central and northern B.C. Of the six communities that received this funding, three have held successful “Train the Trainer” events reaching over 90 service providers in Prince George, Kamloops, and the Nisga’a First Nation. Three remaining communities will hold their events later this year (Prince Rupert, Quesnel, and Sauteau First Nation/Treaty 8 [Chetwynd]).

In early 2014, OCTIP began work on a Toolkit for Communities on Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention. The toolkit will be completed in the summer of 2014 and provided to participants at upcoming Train the Trainer events in the fall of 2014. Long term plans include posting the toolkit on OCTIP's website for easy access by community members around the province who wish to take action to prevent and address human trafficking.

Action: Provide Crime Prevention and Remediation grants for human trafficking and sexual exploitation awareness and prevention projects in B.C. communities.

Result:

- In 2013/14, \$1 million in grant funding was provided to organizations for prevention projects that address sexual exploitation of youth and human trafficking, including labour trafficking. Since 2011, in total \$1.4 million has been provided to communities around B.C. to address these issues.
- This year several projects were launched that focus on preventing vulnerable Aboriginal youth and women from being lured by traffickers and sexually exploited, especially when transitioning from rural to urban centres. Prevention projects were launched in communities around B.C. by the following organizations: Boston Bar First Nation, the Aboriginal Front Door Society (Vancouver), the Circle of Indigenous Nations Society (Krestovar), the Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre Society, Prince George New Hope Society, the Friendship House of Prince Rupert, and the Kwikwetlen First Nation (Coquitlam).
- The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres received funds to raise awareness and build capacity to address the issue of sexual exploitation and human trafficking among Aboriginal youth province-wide.
- West Coast Domestic Workers Association conducted unique B.C.-based research on labour exploitation and human trafficking among migrant workers, temporary foreign workers and live-in caregivers. A public launch of the report to highlight key recommendations for further action was held in May 2014.

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

Action: Support efforts in northern B.C. to increase coordination of services for trafficked persons.

Result:

- Two organizations in northern B.C. received Crime Prevention and Remediation Grants to increase outreach efforts to vulnerable women and youth, potentially trafficked persons and provide case coordination when situations emerge.
- Three organizations in the Lower Mainland received Crime Prevention and Remediation Grants to increase outreach efforts to vulnerable women and youth, potentially trafficked persons and provide case coordination when situations emerge.

Action: 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 communities.

Result:

- Approximately 25 contracted service provider program staff are now fully trained and providing leadership in their communities to coordinate services and local responses for trafficked persons in B.C.

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

Action: Support B.C.-focused research on vulnerabilities of temporary foreign workers to labour trafficking.

Result:

- OCTIP supported three research reports on labour trafficking: one report addressed labour trafficking and migrant workers and two reports focused on the labour exploitation and the vulnerability of live-in caregivers. West Coast Domestic Workers Association was a key partner in this research.

Action: Contribute information and participate in consultations on human trafficking to further inform the development of the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking.

Result:

- OCTIP contributed information and knowledge to Public Safety Canada's research about labour trafficking situations in British Columbia.
- OCTIP partnered with West Coast Domestic Workers Association and the International Centre for Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Policy to hold a one-day forum on labour trafficking in March 2014 as part of ongoing efforts by Public Safety Canada and the Province of B.C. to understand the dynamics of labour trafficking in Canada.
- OCTIP gave a presentation on B.C.'s model of coordinating the province's response to human trafficking at the National Forum on Human Trafficking organized by Public Safety Canada in January 2014.
- OCTIP represents B.C. 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 as a member of the Canadian Women's Foundation: Task Force on Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada.

Action: Contribute B.C.-specific information to the RCMP Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre's Threat Assessment Report on domestic trafficking in Canada.

Result:

- OCTIP provided information on human trafficking in B.C. to inform the RCMP's Threat Assessment Report. The report "Domestic Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation in Canada October 2013" was publicly released by the RCMP in 2014. This report was prepared by the RCMP's Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre.

Conclusion

OCTIP, in collaboration with our partners and stakeholders, has successfully implemented the immediate actions in the B.C. Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking 2013-2016.

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:

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