

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

THIRD YEAR STATUS REPORT

April 2015 to June 2016

September 2016



Ministry of Public Safety
and Solicitor General

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Minister's Message



The Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons (OCTIP) is part of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. 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 third year 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 longer term actions taken in the past year to address five priority areas.

For example, working with our partners, we've made significant progress in building capacity in local B.C. communities to address this issue by partnering with local agencies to hold 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](#) continues to provide a valuable training resource for service providers who 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 \$2 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 remain committed to addressing this complex issue and make B.C. a safer place for all.

Honourable Mike Morris
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

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 Public Safety & Solicitor General, 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 status report provides a summary of the longer term actions and additional activities completed to fulfill the third year of the B.C. Action Plan from April 2015 to June 2016. 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 third year were supported by 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:

- In October 2015, OCTIP partnered with several community organizations to organize and host “Guacamole for Justice” a community public education event to raise community awareness on labour trafficking in agriculture.
- The Simon Fraser University Labour Studies Program hosted a workshop on labour trafficking in February 2016. OCTIP participated in a panel discussion and provided information on B.C.’s response to human trafficking.
- In February 2016, the Community Coordination for Women’s Safety, Provincial Working Group heard a presentation from OCTIP, Crown counsel, Vancouver Police Department, Deborah’s Gate (shelter for trafficked women), and a community-based victim service worker involved in the Moazami case. Mr. Moazami was the first person to be convicted of human trafficking charges under the Criminal Code in B.C. in 2015. The presentation increased understanding of the importance of collaboration and partnerships in a human trafficking investigation and prosecution.
- In March 2016, OCTIP partnered with Reel Causes for the public presentation of the movie “Siddhartha” followed by a panel discussion on human trafficking.
- In April 2016 the BC Teachers Federation (BCTF) held a one day workshop for Vancouver Island teachers in Nanaimo B.C. on sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Over 40 teachers were in attendance. Aboriginal teachers were invited to attend to learn about domestic trafficking of Aboriginal girls and women and many participated in these discussions.

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.

Public Awareness Highlight:

Three Corners Health Services Society organized a one day workshop on human trafficking in January 2016. The workshop was held in Williams Lake for First Nations service providers from the Canoe Creek, Soda Creek, and Williams Lake Indian Bands. OCTIP staff, the RCMP Human Trafficking Coordinator and a community expert on domestic trafficking of Aboriginal women and youth presented information. During the workshop participants explored examples of exploitation and steps to raise awareness and prevent luring and recruiting of women and youth for the purpose of exploitation.

Three Corners Health Services Society is a community based health service whose mission is to holistically address the health care needs of Secwepemc community members by incorporating traditional and contemporary practices.

Result:

- Children of the Street Society delivered 543 peer-led workshops about sexual exploitation and human trafficking to over 27,576 children and youth in 183 B.C. schools during the 2015/16 school year. Referrals to the workshops came from a variety of sources, including OCTIP and Branch staff at the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General. Children of the Street Society is OCTIP’s main partner in delivering school-based workshops about 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.

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:

- In 2015/16, OCTIP partnered with the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) and supported the development of a project proposal to continue to address the issues of sexual exploitation and human trafficking of Aboriginal girls and women. Previously OCTIP provided grant funding for workshops with Aboriginal youth to learn about the signs of luring and grooming.
- In January 2016, OCTIP provided a workshop on human trafficking for the Williams Lake, Soda Creek and Canoe Creek Bands in Williams Lake. The domestic trafficking of aboriginal girls and women was a key topic.

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 addresses 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 "Human Trafficking in Canada" booklet 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 British Columbia.

Public Awareness Highlight:

In March 2016, OCTIP partnered with Reel Causes, Children of the Street Society, West Coast Domestic Workers Association, and photographer Tony Hoare for an inspiring public awareness event on human trafficking, which included an exhibit of portraits of trafficked persons taken by Tony Hoare in various countries, and a viewing of the film "Siddhartha", about a family that lost a child to labour traffickers. A panel discussion followed the film that included OCTIP and other partners. Over two hundred members of the public attended. Proceeds from the sale of tickets were donated to the partner agencies participating. The event increased public awareness of the issue of human trafficking, enhanced collaboration among community partners, and also raised funds needed to support efforts to combat human trafficking in B.C.

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 2016, the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation took further steps to train front line Ministry staff on human trafficking. This year, Ministry training coordinators received an overview of OCTIP's online course and encouraged all front line staff to complete Modules 3 and 4. All front line Ministry staff will complete these two modules in the months ahead as part of their learning and development goals. Ministry staff who have completed the OCTIP training through the PSA will be tracked and can receive a Certificate of Completion.

Online Training Highlight:

In 2016, B.C.'s Public Service Agency included the OCTIP online training course "Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune" as one of the learning and development courses that B.C. public servants may access and complete as part of their learning and development.

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 the Community Safety and Crime Prevention 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. OCTIP's online course is promoted to all Branch staff and Branch programs through the Branch Information Bulletin.
- In 2015/16, 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: 100 Mile House/Williams Lake, Abbotsford and Courtenay/Comox on Vancouver Island.
- To date, 10 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 follow-up activities in their local community.
- Training sessions are held up to two times per year for VictimLinkBC staff who operate OCTIP's help line and provide information and referrals 24/7 with interpretation if required (October 2015 and May 2016).
- A one day training and education session was hosted by the Capital Region Action Team on Youth Sexual Exploitation for over 150 participants in Victoria (September 2015).
- A presentation was hosted by Whistler Community Services for local front line services providers on human trafficking in which OCTIP participated (March 2016).
- OCTIP delivered a presentation to Kiwassa Neighborhood House for settlement, youth and family programs staff (June 2016).
- OCTIP and Covenant House, Toronto provided a webinar on human trafficking for service providers across Canada (June 2016).

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.

Partnership Highlight:

"We are incredibly grateful for your help to support the young women and girls we serve through the Integrated Outreach and Residential Crisis Program. The Civil Forfeiture Office and Ministry's partnership with Covenant House Vancouver is breaking down the exploitation and trafficking networks by helping female youth escape prostitution, trafficking, poverty and homelessness. Together, we are preventing violence against women by empowering them to heal, learn life skills and rebuild their lives to achieve healthy, lasting independence."

**Sister Nancy Brown, S.C. OBC, Pastoral Counsellor
Covenant House Vancouver**

- Crown counsel provided a learning session for all Crown in B.C. about human trafficking, the R.v. Moazami case and other relevant legislation.
- In 2016, all Crown counsel and legal staff in B.C. Crown counsel offices were encouraged to complete the OCTIP online course on human trafficking. Lawyers could receive professional development credits by the Law Society for completing this course.

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

Result:

- OCTIP continues to promote, distribute and highlight the Fraser Health Authority toolkit for nurses. It contains an online learning module and protocol for emergency room nurses and front line staff. The toolkit provides information about human trafficking indicators and resources. OCTIP posted a link to this important new resource on the OCTIP website and promoted it in presentations and meetings around B.C. The toolkit can be accessed here: [Fraser Health Authority Toolkit](#).

Partnership Highlight:

"The Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons plays a vital role in coordinating services across the province for trafficked persons, and in working to prevent human trafficking through educating frontline workers, law enforcement, NGOs and the general public. Our partnership with the Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons has facilitated opportunities to collaborate on cases of trafficking for forced labour, conduct outreach to communities of vulnerable migrant workers we serve, and participate in numerous awareness-raising events in the community. We are grateful for their ongoing support and collaborative efforts to combat human trafficking in our province."

**Natalie Drolet, Executive Director and Staff Lawyer
West Coast Domestic Workers Association**

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 that are working to address this issue. The OCTIP toolkit includes information on human trafficking, a PowerPoint presentation that community members can use, posters, materials, resources and promising practices. The toolkit can be accessed here: [OCTIP Training Toolkit](#).
- Resource materials on human trafficking were provided at public events and workshops this year including in 100 Mile House, Abbotsford, Williams Lake, Courtney/Comox and throughout the Lower Mainland. These materials were used to assist with local prevention and awareness initiatives and included OCTIP resources such as the "Communities Taking Action" Toolkit (above) and other materials.

Partnership Highlight:

"Thank you both so much for all your valuable information with respect to Human Trafficking."

Marlene Swift, Victim Services Unit Manager, CSI-AT Committee Chair, Prince Rupert

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.

Result:

- This action has been deferred.
- In 2014, the City of Quesnel developed a community action plan to address human trafficking and has been implementing it over the past two years. The plan resulted from a year long partnership between OCTIP and Quesnel service providers, including a two day "Train the Trainer" workshop in the community.

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:

- OCTIP continued to partner with Children of the Street Society on a project to improve 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 highlight successful convictions in Canada related to the sexual exploitation and human trafficking of youth.
 - Phase I was completed from April 2015 to March 31, 2016 resulting in a draft toolkit for service providers.
 - Phase II funding has been secured and deliverables include posting online the final edited version of the toolkit. The development of a training

curriculum for Community Action Teams and Child Advocacy Centres in B.C. about the toolkit will also be developed and piloted during this Phase (2016–2017).

- Phase III will include provincial training on the toolkit and the development of local community protocols to ensure a coordinated response to trafficked youth (2017–2018). 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 is 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 Abbotsford, 100 Mile House, Courtenay/Comox and Williams Lake participated in a community capacity building project with OCTIP. "Train the Trainer" workshops were held in each community to identify local resources and build a local service model with community agencies, schools, police and Aboriginal community members.
- Culturally appropriate services for First Nations and Aboriginal communities, as well as 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.

Partnership Highlight:

"The Train the Trainer workshop offered by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General allowed our community to catalyze around the issue of human trafficking. Not only did the training bring general awareness of the issue, it also helped our community members implement efforts towards prevention and education. These efforts took place at various levels, from work with youth in schools, non-profits and youth centers, to work with immigrants and other vulnerable groups. Without this training, our community would not have been as well prepared and equipped to take action."

Erin Brillon, Program Coordinator
Wachiay Friendship Centre

Civil Forfeiture (CFO) Grant Funding Highlight:

Since 2011, OCTIP has provided more than \$2 million in grants from civil and criminal forfeiture proceeds to organizations in B.C. to address human trafficking and sexual exploitation. This funding supported 99 projects throughout B.C., 28 of which were Aboriginal specific initiatives. In 2015/16, \$379,690 from civil and criminal proceeds were provided for 17 projects. This included organizations providing outreach and coordination of services to trafficked persons, vulnerable women in the sex trade, and youth at risk of sexual exploitation.

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 collaborated with West Coast Domestic Workers Association in the development of a new documentary on trafficking for labour exploitation. Funding was leveraged from Public Safety Canada with OCTIP providing in-kind support. The documentary is the first of its kind in Canada and features OCTIP staff member Victor Porter along with other experts in the field.
- Grant funding was provided for a new project called "Outreach to Female Migrant Workers about Labour Trafficking in B.C." (March 2016) by West Coast Domestic Workers Association. This project will provide information and resources about labour trafficking to female migrant workers in communities in B.C.

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.
- The B.C. Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) completed a CFO funded project on this issue in 2014/15. This report called “Our Spirits Are Not For Sale” provides valuable research and information on domestic trafficking of Aboriginal girls and women.
- In 2016, OCTIP supported the BCAAFC in trying to secure additional funding for a longer term research and action project to continue to address these issues. A funding announcement is currently pending.
- A labour trafficking project was supported through grant funding to the Migrant Workers Dignity Association (March 2016). This project will provide outreach to temporary foreign workers in farms in the Lower Mainland and the Fraser Valley and provide information and resources about labour trafficking in B.C.

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 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 has raised issues about temporary resident permits for trafficked persons and shared best practices from B.C.

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.
- VictimLinkBC 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, victim services, and others for assistance.

Public Awareness Highlight:

“We value the working relationship we established with OCTIP. With their support and guidance we were able stop instances of extreme exploitation of migrant workers, recover workers passports and work permits retained illegally by employers, liaise with other labour and human rights regulatory bodies and agencies, and access funding opportunities to support our work. We cherish our partnership as it allows us to access OCTIP’s expertise to prevent labour trafficking, stop exploitation, and fulfill our mandate of upholding migrant workers’ rights and restoring their dignity.”

Raul Gatica, Migrant Workers Dignity Association

Conclusion

OCTIP, in collaboration with our partners and stakeholders, has successfully implemented many long term actions in the B.C. Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking 2013-2016. The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch will continue to address human trafficking as a priority issue within the [Vision for a Violence Free BC](#) strategy.

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

OCTIP webpage: [Human Trafficking in B.C.](#)