

COMMUNITY

Quesnel
Cariboo District
of BC

Project:***City Council Engagement*****City of Quesnel, BC**

The City of Quesnel is located in the Cariboo District of BC, between Prince George and Williams Lake, on the main route between northern BC and the Yukon. The population consists of approximately 10,000 people, with about 13,000 people living in the surrounding area. Of the population living in Quesnel, approximately 14% are Aboriginal.

Karima Beaucage is a community based victim services worker with the Prince George and District Elizabeth Fry Society. Karima and a Community Advisory Committee coordinated a “Train the Trainer” workshop on human trafficking in Quesnel in the fall of 2014. The community members who attended received the workshop well, and generated ideas for follow up activities that could further address this issue in Quesnel.

One of the major initiatives identified by community members and the Advisory Committee involved building a relationship with the Quesnel City Council to work together to raise awareness about human trafficking. Karima contacted the City of Quesnel and met with the City Manager. At this meeting, Karima presented information about the Ministry of Justice’s *BC Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking 2013-2016*, and discussed the role that the City could play in the work of the Committee. Karima suggested that the City Council member with the Community Safety /Victims of Crime portfolio be designated as a contact person on the issue of human trafficking. This Councillor, in turn, invited Karima to address the Mayor and Council members in the Council Chambers on the issue of human trafficking. Karima, members of the Advisory Committee, and a representative from BC’s Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons in the Ministry of Justice attended Council Chambers to provide the presentation. Initially, Council members questioned the relevance of this issue to the mandate of the City, but after the presentation, agreed that the issue should be given priority and attention by the City.

The City Councillor continues to work with the Advisory Committee to support the project and increase awareness of human trafficking in Quesnel today.

As **Karima** says:

“*The engagement of City Council in the fight against human trafficking is valuable as the City is involved in all sectors of the community. From victim community safety, to better business, the City will have a great influence over the dissemination of information and increasing awareness on the issue of human trafficking and its negative impacts on our families and community.*”

The Community Advisory Committee, with support from the City, also developed a City of Quesnel Action Plan to raise awareness about human trafficking. The Plan identifies activities, objectives, and anticipated outcomes that will further advance the work on human trafficking in this community.

“The Action Plan is a tool to organize and carry out the necessary actions to achieve the goals of the advisory committee in increasing awareness of the Quesnel community, and provide an opportunity for ‘Train the Trainer’ participants to utilize the skills and knowledge obtained through the October 2014 training.”

– Karima Beaucage

Community-based Victim Service Worker
Project Coordinator – Quesnel Train the Trainer Project
Prince George and District Elizabeth Fry Society
Prince George, B.C.

City of Quesnel Action Plan

Raising Awareness Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking

December 9, 2014

<p>1. Power Point & Quick Tips Leaflet</p>	<p>Objective: To provide a ‘power’ full presentation for participants to utilize in raising awareness of HT.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapt OCTIP resources into power point form
<p>2. Social Media Campaign</p>	<p>Objective: To utilize social media to increase awareness, promote events and provide a forum for questions and discussions of HT.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create FB group/page • Promote page/group
<p>3. SD28/Christian & Catholic School Partnership</p>	<p>Objective: To increase awareness of youth population and those who support them through connecting with students and people living on the street, giving them information about risk factors, rights and signs of HT.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize power point in classrooms • Attend Gathering Our Voices in March 2015 with the Quesnel HT
<p>4. Season’s House</p>	<p>Objective: To increase awareness of most vulnerable population through connecting with people living on the street, giving them information about risk factors, rights and signs of HT.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the Street with Soup & Bannock (Season’s House)

<p>5. Shaw Forum</p>	<p>Objective: Raise awareness of community at large.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Shaw TV for steps to getting a slot • recruit interested ToT participants to sit on panel
<p>6. Proclamation: Stop the Sexual Exploitation of Children & Youth</p> <p>City Hall Champion</p>	<p>Objective: To increase awareness within the City of Quesnel of working together to stop the sexual exploitation of children & youth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plan a kick off event • invite media • proclaim City of Quesnel a partner in stopping the exploitation of children & youth.