

Get Informed

Goal

What is the goal of the Toolkit?

The goal of this Toolkit is to support communities to take action at the local level to raise awareness and prevent human trafficking. Human trafficking generally refers to someone who exercises control, direction or influence over another person for purposes of sexual exploitation and/or labour exploitation.

This section of the Toolkit will help you and community members get informed about human trafficking. The information is provided in clear language so any community member can use it to begin to address this issue. A set of questions to help your community reflect on what is needed are provided at the end of this document. Suggestions for getting organized and taking action are made in the next sections of the Toolkit. Resources and stories from BC communities taking action on this issue are also provided.

Please note: *Community members who may be concerned about how to respond to situations of human trafficking should review OCTIP's online training course for service providers and contact local RCMP, municipal police, victim services, child protection and other front line service providers for assistance. For immediate help with coordination of services and supports for trafficked persons anywhere in BC, call VictimLink BC 1-888-712-7974 (toll-free, 24/7, interpretation available)*

Why

Why is getting informed important?

Before you can take action, you may wish to learn more about what human trafficking is, and why it is a concern in Canada and around the world. Becoming better informed about human trafficking will help you and other members of your community to take action that is based on current information and definitions of human trafficking used in Canada. Practical steps you can take to get informed are listed below.

Who

Community members who may wish to be involved include those working in victim services, violence against women programs, women's shelters and transition houses, youth serving agencies, immigrant settlement agencies and as social workers, police, health care providers and other front line responders. Aboriginal communities, including Chief and Band council members may also play a role. Members of the general public may also wish to be involved, as well as members of the faith-based community.

How

There are many ways to get informed about the issue of human trafficking in Canada. Information is readily available about human trafficking and this Toolkit gathers the resources in one place to make it easy to get informed and take appropriate action. Please review the Resources section of this Toolkit and the many resources listed below for more information about human trafficking in Canada.


What

What might help you and your community get informed? Check out the following suggestions and resources:

1. Gather information online

There are some excellent websites in Canada that provide information about human trafficking including the [Human Trafficking in B.C. website](#).

At the end of the Toolkit in the Resources section is a list of some other key websites that will help you learn more about this issue.

2. Take OCTIP's Online Training Course:

[Human Trafficking – Canada is Not Immune](#)

Service providers and members of the public in British Columbia and across Canada are using the online training course **Human Trafficking – Canada is Not Immune** to get informed. This free online training for Canadian front line service providers and the general public provides information on how to recognize, protect, and assist a person who may have been trafficked.

The online training includes:

- materials and resources to help identify trafficked persons
- Information and referral services for the support, help, and protect trafficked persons after identification
- interactive quizzes for self-assessment, and videos
- real stories from trafficked persons

MY STORY:

"The traffickers told me: 'This is the rules... [You] gonna work 6 days a week, we gonna drive you... don't be late. It is \$50.00 every 5 minutes you are late. At the club don't talk to anybody... We are gonna be there... Everyday at the end of your shift we are gonna come to your room and collect your money... and you do not want to go to the police under any circumstances... just remember you are here with fake documents and you are a criminal, you broke the law so you gonna end up in jail...'"

Timea



The training program has four modules and takes approximately five to seven hours to complete. It can be completed at your own pace.

Testimonials about the Training:

"I liked learning about the issue through story. I liked the glossary and the resources provided. I have already printed some for further reading and learning. I liked the context from International to local community to see the issue from different perspectives. I will share this site with my colleagues."

~ Aboriginal service provider, Western Canada & Territories

"Just the fact that it was online. Being from Northern BC it can be hard to access programs that are available to Southern and/or Mainland BC."

~ Women's counsellor, Northern British Columbia

"Easy to use and easy to read format. The language was very basic and the case studies very helpful."

~ Aboriginal service provider, Hope, British Columbia

3. Watch videos on human trafficking

OCTIP's online training *Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune* contains many excellent video clips to help inform you about this issue. In addition, the resources section of this Toolkit provides additional video resources. Avenue Zero, a film by the National Film Board of Canada, provides an excellent overview of human trafficking in Canada. Information about how to view and order this film is provided in the Resources section of the Toolkit.

4. View the PowerPoint on Human Trafficking.

As a leader in your community, you can assist others to become informed about issues of human trafficking. The PowerPoint presentation entitled, "[What is Human Trafficking](#)," contained in this Toolkit, is a good starting place. The PowerPoint examines the definition of human trafficking, how to recognize it, and what you can do about it. You can use it to provide a simple presentation on the issue to family, friends, community members, your workplace and to anyone interested in learning more about this issue.

5. Learn the Indicators of Human Trafficking

Anyone can learn the indicators of human trafficking and be aware of situations of potential exploitation in your community. OCTIP's online training course *Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune* contains a detailed, comprehensive list of indicators that can alert you to what a human trafficking situation might look like. The indicators from OCTIP's training are included here for easy reference, but OCTIP's entire training should be completed in order to give you the full picture of this issue. The presence of one or more of these indicators suggests it is worth looking further into the situation. However, every situation is different so



What

these indicators are a guide only, to be used with common sense and an understanding of your community and its members.

[Red Flags: Indicators of Abuse and Control](#)

Reflecting

1. What steps can I take to become informed about human trafficking, including labour trafficking and trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation?
2. Am I willing to spend time to learn about this issue?
3. Can I find others to join me in gathering information about this topic?
4. Who can I contact in my community to learn more about this issue?

Next Steps

The next sections of the Toolkit “Get Organized” and “Take Action” provide ideas for actions that various members of your community may wish to take to address human trafficking. The [Resources](#) section of the Toolkit provides a list of resources and materials that will help you learn more about this issue. The “Community Action Stories” section of the Toolkit provides concrete examples from communities in British Columbia who have begun to address the issue of human trafficking at the local level.