



# Human Trafficking and Exploitation in and around Calgary

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# GOALS

- Differentiate Exploitation vs Trafficking in Persons
- Recognize factors that lead to vulnerability
- Recognize challenges in working with survivors
- Recognize some challenges to leaving
- Identify processes in recruiting and grooming
- Recognize and identify gaps in service



*For a man to think he can buy a woman's body is insane, and should show us the attitudes women have to fight against in society. What we need are facilities to get women off and away from drugs, and keep young girls from this horrible lifestyle, by helping them when they are still young.*

*Anything else would be a cop out, and further fuel the abuse of women as playthings for men, who prey on sick, disadvantaged and hurting women.*

Lynn and Rick Frey  
Parents of Marnie, a Pickton victim



# DEFINITIONS

Exploitation –causing someone to provide, or offer to provide, labour or a service by engaging in conduct that could reasonably be expected to cause the other person to believe that their safety or the safety of a person known to them would be threatened if they failed to provide, or offer to provide, the labour or service.

Criminal Code of Canada, s279.04



# DEFINITIONS

Trafficking in Persons (HT) involves the recruitment, transportation, harbouring and/or control of the movement of persons for the purpose of exploitation, typically for sexual exploitation or forced labour.

Victims are required to provide (or offer to provide) their services or labour as a result of conduct that, in all the circumstances, could reasonably be expected to cause the victim to fear for their own safety — or for the safety of someone known to them — if they refuse to provide that service or labour.



# SIMILARITIES & DIFFERENCES

## Human Trafficking

## Sexual Exploitation

### Action

Recruiting, transporting, harbouring

Sexual assault by sexual exchange  
- drugs, shelter, protection

### Means

Force, threats/coercion, abuse of  
power, deceit

Coercion, debt creation, deceit,  
extortion

### Purpose

Sexual/labor exploitation, servitude

Gratification, status,  
self-preservation

# REALITIES IN CALGARY

- 100's of unique ads per day on various websites
- Dozens of workers encountered each year
  - less than 5 per cent indicate the want or need assistance
- Very few women encountered outdoors
- 15 per cent of 'reported' offences against youth were sexual
- 1 per cent of 'reported' offences against adults were sexual
- 287 reported youth victims in 2015

Calgary Police Service 2015



# TRAFFICKING DYNAMICS - SEX

- Generally females, aged 14 -22
  - Very few under 18 years in Calgary
- Exotic dancers appear to be particularly vulnerable
- Backgrounds will vary
  - Socially and economically disadvantaged
    - How can we identify these individuals?





# TRAFFICKING DYNAMICS - LABOR

Foreign born – no gender bias except for caregivers

Minimal English, limited knowledge of Canada

Low wage sectors – construction, retail, food service, hotels

Not aware of local address



# ALBERTA EXAMPLES

## International

Edmonton 2009

- Massage

Calgary 2009

- Linh TO – Operation Seoul Train

St Paul 2011

- Fr. John Lipinski – Labor

Edmonton 2014

- Jennilyn Morris – Labor

Red Deer 2015

- Varinder & Ravinder Sidhu - Labor

## Domestic

Calgary 2009

- Cody Cardinal – Operation Brooklyn

Edmonton 2013

- Ali Saghafi – minor from Saskatoon
- Hamid Ghejlou/Shahin Ranjbar – 18 year old victim lured by teen girl

Calgary 2013

- Aranjit Simnica/Avni Gashi – 2 underage victims

Calgary 2013

- Levreau, Maignan & Affriany – victims, 1 underage



# ALBERTA EXAMPLES Cont.

## International

## Domestic

### Edmonton 2014

- Long Quan – plea agreement (Korean refugee victim)

### Calgary 2014

- Amanda McGee – 18 yr old victim, SA on 16yr old cousin

### Calgary 2014

- 2 males, 1 female – early 20's female

### Edmonton 2015

- Nadine Brown & Yolanda Mohabeer – early 20's female



# YOUTH

- Average 55-60 per year apprehended by CPS and CFS in Calgary
- Understudied population, but very similar victimology to domestic violence and sexual assault
  - 10-15 per cent reported
- Average age is now 15 years



# ADULTS

- Young single females
  - 22 to 25 years-of-age
- Undereducated and poly-addicted
- Histories of abuse
- 100% exhibit PTSD symptoms
- Higher prevalence of organization/Organized Crime involvement



# VULNERABILITY FACTORS – PUSH/PULL

## Push

- Extreme poverty
- Unemployment
- Lack of education
- Lack of or inadequate social programs
- Gender-based inequality

## Pull

- Perception of easy money
- Promise or illusion of a better life



# REASONS FOR ENTERING - THE 3 'C's

## CHOICE

## COERCION

Age of consent

I make the rules

I keep my money

No coercion

Always consensual

No third party

Poverty

Addiction

Mental health

## CIRCUMSTANCE

Forced

Threatened

Ultimatum

Profiting

Photos

Decisions about #'s and services

NEVER consensual



# LURING

- Assessing vulnerability
- Questions will feel special
  - Getting to know you
- For once someone cares





# GROOMING/HONEYMOON

- All needs being met
- All gaps filled
- Everything for free
- Very difficult to see red flags



# COERCION/MANIPULATION

- Give and take
- I must have done something wrong
- Offer to help
- Breakdown of moral boundaries and barriers
- 'Operant Conditioning'
- Idea is introduced generally when money is low
- The idea gets normalized
  - It's not sex, it's business
  - You're already having sex
- First sexual encounter = control
- Isolation from healthy supports

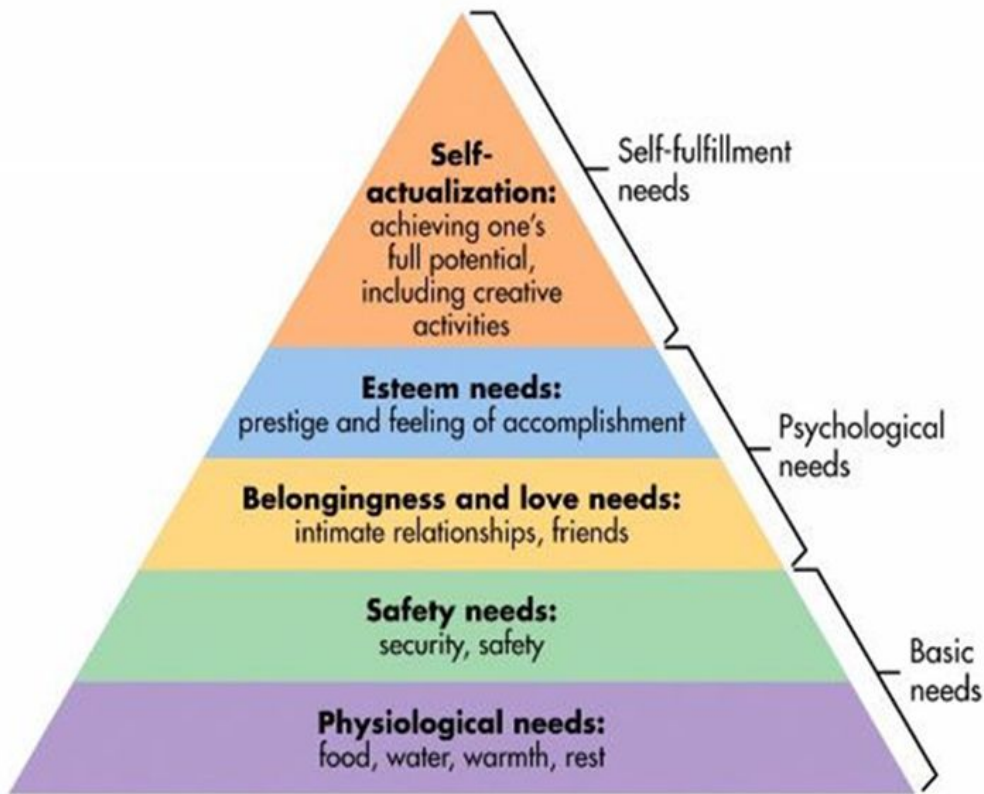


# EXPLOITATION

- Payback
- You owe me
  - Threats
  - Withdrawal of love/affection
- Use information gained through Luring
- Sell the dream



# MASLOW



Any gaps in basic or psychological needs provide an opportunity to exploiters.

Multiple gaps = higher vulnerability



# WHY THEY DON'T COME FORWARD

## Victims may:

- Fear for their lives or their loved ones
- Not know – they will not self-identify
- May say that they consented
- Fear of the unknown
- Psychological control – Trauma Bonding
- Be taught to distrust outsiders, especially law enforcement or other government authorities
- Not be aware of their rights in Canada



# BARRIERS TO LEAVING

- Problematic drug use
- Problems with housing
- Physical and mental health problems
- Experiences of violence as a child
- Criminalization
- Managing debts or high levels of disposable income
- Coercion from others to remain in prostitution
- A lack of qualifications or training
- Entering at a young age



# POTENTIAL EARNING POWER

If we assume a slow day at the low end of the fee structure the earnings could be expected to be:

$$4 \text{ dates} \times \$150 = \$600/\text{day};$$

$$\$600/\text{day} \times 20 \text{ days (weekends off)} = \$12,000/\text{month};$$

$$4 \text{ dates} \times \$220 = \$880;$$

$$\$880/\text{day} \times 20 \text{ days (weekends off)} = \$17,600/\text{month}$$

\$211,200/year

If we assume busier days at the higher end of the fee structure, the earnings could be expected to be:

$$10 \text{ dates} \times \$180 = \$1800/\text{day};$$

$$\$1800/\text{day} \times 20 \text{ days (weekends off)} = \$36,000/\text{month};$$

$$10 \text{ dates} \times \$250 = \$2500/\text{day};$$

$$\$2500 \times 20 \text{ days (weekends off)} = \$50,000/\text{month}$$

\$600,000/year



# INTERVENTION

- Calgary was victim-centric long before R v Bedford
- Alberta is a national leader in terms of protecting vulnerable youth (PSECA legislation)
- Education available to all victims
- Variety of NGO's available for youth and adults
  - gaps in services continue to exist





# WHAT ARE WE MISSING?

- Identification/access to victims
  - Low risk/high reward – clandestine and difficult to detect and investigate
- Immediate stabilization
- Access to treatment beds for youth and adults
- Access to cultural treatment facilities
- Credible peers
  - do we risk re-victimizing?
- Life skills
- Long-term housing for adults
  - child care
- Long-term, consistent support



# CONTACT

RCMP Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre (HTNCC)

1-855-850-4640

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**QUESTIONS**