

## Mrs. Cathy Peters: biography

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Mrs. Cathy Peters "raises awareness" to the issue of Child Sex Trafficking to all 3 levels of government in British Columbia, police agencies and the public. Cathy is a former inner city high school teacher and has volunteered for 2 Members of Parliament (John Weston/BC, Joy Smith/Manitoba) for 5 years. She has made 200 presentations to City Councils, School Boards, Police Boards, high schools, colleges, universities, seniors, church, business, leadership, women's, men's, youth, provincial leadership groups and law enforcement agencies. Cathy has been awarded 8 Challenge Coins for her work/advocacy from Coquitlam, Richmond, Surrey, RCMP Headquarters Child Exploitation Unit and the Chilliwack RCMP detachments, from the New Westminster Police Department after presenting at the Justice Institute in New Westminster, the Delta Police Department and Vancouver Police Department. Cathy has been introduced in the BC Legislature in spring 2018, and has participated in 2 Federal Justice Committee Human Trafficking Roundtables (2017, 2018) in Vancouver. At the request from the Federal Public Safety department Cathy has submitted specific recommendations on "How to Stop Human Sex Trafficking and Child Sex Trafficking in Canada".

**"Education is our greatest weapon"**. Cathy has written to every City Council (190), MLA (87), MP (41) and Police Agency in British Columbia, to every Premier and Attorney General in Canada and to every MP (338) and Senator (105) in Canada. In her presentations Cathy describes the problem we have locally, and the strategies/tools/resources we can use to stop this crime. She is hopeful and positive in her presentation, so that the audience can do something in their area of influence. Cathy is married to Allan, an architect and they have 3 amazing (grown) children: 1 boy, 2 girls, ages 33, 31, 28, a daughter-in-law and son-in-law.

**Some Facts about Human sex trafficking/youth and child exploitation:** It is the fastest growing crime in Canada and the world. It is a form of "modern day slavery". Today's slavery has low costs and huge profits; a trafficker can make \$280,000 per victim, per year. Average age of entry into prostitution is 12-14 years of age in Canada, although traffickers are targeting children as young as 8 years of age. There is a dramatic increase in child exploitation and child pornography (production and consumption). Unchecked pornography on the internet fuels the sex trade creating an increasing demand for paid sex. The biggest problem we have in Canada: people do not know we have a problem here; therefore the traffickers are developing the sex industry exponentially. Every woman and child, the marginalized and vulnerable will become a potential target and victim, unless we do something to stop it. **MISSION STATEMENT: A MODERN EQUAL SOCIETY DOES NOT BUY AND SELL WOMEN AND CHILDREN.**

# The Chilliwack Progress

Friday



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B.C. anti-child sex trafficking advocate, Cathy Peters, visited Chilliwack to motivate the community to help put an end to what she's calling "The new pandemic: Child sex trafficking in B.C. and how we can stop it." (Sarah Gawdin/The Progress)

## Chilliwack's children are at risk, says B.C. child sex trafficking watchdog

### Cathy Peters wants Chilliwack to be a positive example for the province

Sarah Gawdin  
The Progress

A B.C. former teacher turned advocate wants to help "make Chilliwack an example for the rest of the province," when it comes to putting an end to child sex trafficking.

Cathy Peters says she's always had a soft spot for children, but it wasn't until her son began working for a Manitoba MP that the safety of children became her key priority.

Where Peters taught in

Delta was near what's called "a kiddie stroll," she said. "A place where children would walk up and down the street to sell their bodies." At the time, her goal was just to get her students to successfully complete Grade 10.

Today, her mission has expanded from getting kids to a certain point in their education, to preventing them from ever being sold into the sex trade. As a result, Peters has been presenting all over the province to police, city councils, schools, churches,

and whomever else she can, to talk about what she's calling a new pandemic: child sex trafficking in B.C.

In the past two-and-a-half years, Peters has presented to more than 180 groups free of charge.

"British Columbia is the best place in Canada and North America for sex buyers," said Peters during her presentation in Chilliwack's Neighbourhood Learning Centre on June 19.

And Peters wants to make sure Chilliwack, with its close proximity to the American border, has its eyes wide open when it comes to the safety of the community's children.

"Don't fool yourselves," she said, looking around at the dozens of people who attended her presentation. "You have a very big problem here. Don't be surprised if you find prostitution rings in the high schools."

"Where children play, predators prey," Peters said simply. "Child sex trafficking is all about the money," continued the retired schoolteacher. The average pimp, says Peters, can get anywhere from \$280,000 to \$360,000 per year per victim. And right now, the most popular commodity on the sex trade market are young, white girls between nine- and

Continued on Page A6

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# Participants urged to report sex trafficking

Continued from Page A1

14-years-old.

"And our aboriginal girls are getting destroyed by this," added Peters.

Const. Isabelle Christensen, who has been a member of the RCMP for more than two decades, sat in on Peters' discussion.

"I think when we hear human trafficking we think of something different than what it is," said the community liaison officer. "We'd like to think we don't have that problem in Chilliwack, but seeing how it's defined, it's more like the old version of prostitution and johns."

And the best way to combat that model says Peters, is to focus on what she calls the "Two Es": education and enforcement.

In 2014, Canada enacted Bill C-36, the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act, which made the buyers of sex criminals, and those selling sex victims. However, Pe-

ters says it's poorly enforced, which has lit the region up like a beacon to those looking to buy illicit sex.

"Our federal government is on the trajectory to fully decriminalize prostitution... We already have johns who act with impunity... and this will lead to brothels in every community. We are headed for hundreds

over the course of a month to make her presentation. "Don't take (issues) on personally, get the police involved.

"I hear all the time from police, 'We just don't get the reports.' So I beg of you, report it," Peters continued.

And while the police reports help tremendously, Peters says the other aspect of ending this pandemic is ensuring a community has the right services to help victims escape with their lives.

Having seen a lot in her career with the RCMP, Christensen says one of the most important things that she walked away from Peters' presentation with was the resources we have available at our fingertips.

"It opened my eyes to the services we have," said the community-based officer. "The possibility of help is there."

For more information on the services Chilliwack has to offer, visit the local services website at [www.comserv.bc.ca](http://www.comserv.bc.ca), or the Child and Youth services web-

*"Where children play, predators prey"*

Cathy Peters,

Anti-child sex trafficking advocate

of (Robert) Picktons (at this rate)," continued Peters.

But even in the darkest of places, the smallest bit of light helps. And Peters says Chilliwack is primed to be a leader in ridding the province of this criminal blight.

"You have a great detachment here, work with them!" exclaimed Peters, who met with each of the city's four watches

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**WOODY'S**

4. Have your child fingerprinted and keep the booklet in an accessible place along with updated pictures. Have an accurate physical description including such things as scars, moles and birthmarks. Call CHILD FIND if you need a new booklet.

5. Teach your child their telephone number, area code and address. Show your child how to dial the operator and 911 and practice what to say.

6. Know where your child is at all times.

7. Don't let your child go to a public washroom alone.

8. Don't leave your child alone in a vehicle.

9. Don't put your child's name (first or last), on hats, jackets, bikes, wagons or anywhere that is visible to strangers. A person who calls your child by name will automatically be thought of as a friend not a stranger.

10. Teach your child to avoid strangers. A stranger is someone they do not know very well.

11. Don't leave your child alone in the toy section of a store or mall. Teach them to go to a cashier for help if they do get lost.

12. Know your child's friends. Be involved in your child's activities.

13. Practice walking routes to and from friends' homes, school etc. with your child and instruct them to use those routes only.

14. Make it clear to your child which of their friends' homes they may go to, to play or visit and what a BLOCK PARENT home is.

15. Listen if your child tells you that he or she does not want to be with someone. Find out WHY. Encourage communication.

16. Notice if someone pays undue attention to your child.

17. Never belittle fears or concerns your child has; real or imaginary.

18. Tell your child that if anything happens, you will look for them no matter how long it takes to find them.

19. Have a secret code word with your children that only you and they know.

1. Establish rules for Internet use with your parents or another adult, including when you can go online, for how long and what activities you can do online. Post your rules next to your computer for easy reference.

2. Keep the computer in a common space, like the family room.

3. Don't share your password with anyone else, and never give out the following information: your real name, address (including your town or city), age, school, phone number or other personal information.

4. Check with your parents before signing up for something online, or giving out a credit card number.

5. Never send a photograph of yourself to someone in email unless your parents say it's OK.

6. Check with your parents or another adult you trust before going into a chat room. Different chat rooms have different rules and attract different kinds of people.

7. Never agree to meet someone you met on the internet in person without your parent's permission. Never meet anyone you met online alone, or in an isolated place. Meet in a public place, and go with your parents or an adult you trust.

8. If someone online asks you too many personal questions, be suspicious and stop talking to them.

9. Always remember that people online may not be who they say they are. Treat everyone online as if they were strangers.

10. Be careful when someone offers you something for free, like gifts or money. Decline the offer and tell your parents.

11. If you receive unwanted, offensive, mean, threatening, or harassing email, don't respond to it - tell your parents or another adult right away.

12. Never use bad language or send mean messages online.

13. Remember - not everything you read on the internet is true.

14. The "OFF" button is always there. Use it if you need to. You don't have to stay online.

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8 rules for safety  
and tips for:  
tots  
school kids  
teens  
parents  
and the internet

- 1 Before I go anywhere, I always check first with my parents or the person in charge. I tell them where I am going, how I will get there, who will be going with me, and when I will be back.
- 2 I check first for permission from my parents before getting into a car or leaving with anyone – even someone I know. I check first before changing plans or accepting money, gifts, or drugs without my parents' knowledge.
- 3 It is safer for me to be with other people when going places or playing outside. I always use the "Buddy System".
- 4 I say NO if someone tries to touch me in ways that make me feel frightened, uncomfortable or confused. Then I go and tell a grown-up I trust what happened.
- 5 I know it is not my fault if someone touches me in a way that is not OK. I don't have to keep secrets about those touches.
- 6 I trust my feelings and talk to grown-ups about problems that are too big for me to handle on my own. A lot of people care about me and will listen and believe me. I am not alone.
- 7 It is never too late to ask for help. I can keep asking until I get the help I need.
- 8 I am a special person, and I deserve to feel safe.  
My rules are:
  1. CHECK First.
  2. Use the BUDDY SYSTEM
  3. Say NO, then GO and TELL.
  4. LISTEN to my feelings and TALK to someone I TRUST

- 1 PARENTS: Explain these safety rules to the children who are too young to read. It is important that you not frighten your child, but with repetition, try to teach the following:
  - 2 Never get into a car with a stranger.
  - 3 Always play with a friend - BE A BUDDY.
  - 4 Do not take presents, candy or money from strangers.
  - 5 If a car pulls up where you are playing, BACK AWAY and run either home, to a friend's house or a Block Parent House (Show & Tell).
  - 6 Never go anywhere without permission.
  - 7 Practice dialing your phone number, including your area code.
  - 8 Never open the door if you are home alone and dial 911 if you are frightened. Know your home address.
  - 9 Do not let anyone touch you in a way that makes you feel nervous. Say NO and GO.
  - 10 Select a code word. Make it simple and repeat it often. Tell your child he or she is only to go with someone who knows the code word.
  - 11 Assure your child of your love and that he or she will not be blamed if he or she tells the truth.
  - 12 It is sometimes a better learning experience if you teach several children at the same time. Repeat the rules often as young children have a short memory span. Be sure to assure your child of your love and approval.
  - 13 If an adult asks you for help say NO and TELL your parents or teacher. Adults should ask adults for help, not children.

- 1 Always tell your parents where you will be. Have a secret code word with your parents for safety.
- 2 Travel in groups or with a buddy, there is safety in numbers.
- 3 If you see someone hanging around the school yard or the park, tell your teacher or parent. Learn to give a good description; is the person tall or short, dark or light skinned, eye and hair colour. If he or she is in a vehicle; the make, model and colour of the car and the license plate number.
- 4 Do not accept job offers, rides or gifts from any stranger. Even if you know the person, do not go with him or her unless you tell your parents first.
- 5 Do not take dares to go to places that are dark, lonely or scary looking.
- 6 It is no fun to run away from home. Nothing is so terrible that you can not tell your parents or another trusted adult.
- 7 Do not answer the door when you are home alone. Do not tell people that you will be alone.
- 8 If someone persists in calling or trying to get in, CALL 911.
- 9 Do not go up to people who are asking directions from a vehicle: step back and tell them you do not know and walk away quickly. Adults should not be asking children for directions.
- 10 If someone touches you in a way that feels bad, YELL AND TELL. It is your body and nobody has the right to make you feel bad. TELL your parents, teacher or someone else you trust.
- 11 Do not go with strangers, even if they are dressed like a policeman or if they promise you such things as a movie career. Talk with your parents first.
- 12 Never keep secrets that make you feel bad.
- 13 Always trust your feelings.
- 14 If a stranger comes too close, say NO, run away and tell an adult you trust.

- 1 DO NOT RUN AWAY FROM HOME. If things are impossible at home, speak to your teacher or your counselor about it. They will help you. TALK IT OVER WITH A FRIEND WHO CARES. If you feel you have no friends that can help, find a crisis centre in your town. They are there to help, not judge. Teenagers who end up on the streets are in danger of getting involved in drugs, pornography, violence, crime and prostitution.
- 2 Be careful of offers of friendship from strangers. When you are lonely and unhappy, it is easier to be misled by signs of affection from strangers. Trust your instincts.
- 3 Do not accept job offers that seem too good to be true. Use legitimate channels such as Student Placement Offices for your part-time jobs. Check all references.
- 4 Do not accept offers to take your photograph and make you famous. Report such offers at home or to police.
- 5 Do not get into cars with strangers for any reason or get near enough to occupied vehicles to be grabbed. DO NOT HITCHHIKE.
- 6 Do not go into remote areas at night. Travel in a group or with a friend. Do not linger alone in unsupervised areas - leave with your friends.
- 7 Tell your parents where you are going to be and let them know when your plans change.
- 8 If anyone touches you in a way that makes you uncomfortable - TELL. Remember, IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT if someone has bothered you, so do not be afraid to tell. Doing so can protect you and others.
- 9 Report any incident of attempted molestation or if someone is hanging around your school or recreation areas. Learn to give a good description.
- 10 Do not open the door to strangers and do not tell people you are home alone.
- 11 Do not accept offers of drink, cigarettes or drugs.
- 12 A date doesn't give someone the right to touch you or be physically demanding. Your body belongs to you. You have the right to say NO.



# **SEX TRAFFICKING** is a **BOOMING** industry

## **DEFINED:**

**SEX TRAFFICKING** occurs when someone uses force, fraud or coercion to cause a commercial sex act with an adult or causes a minor to commit a commercial sex act. A **COMMERCIAL SEX ACT** includes prostitution, pornography and sexual performance done in exchange for any item of value, such as money, drugs, shelter, food or clothes.

**It thrives because there is serious demand.**

**Buyer:** fuels the market with their money

**Trafficker/pimp:** exploits victims to earn revenue from buyers

**Victim:** includes both girls and boys who are bought and sold for profit

Traffickers find victims through: Social network, Home/neighborhood, clubs or bars, internet, school,

And lure them through promises: Protection, Love, Adventure, Home, Opportunity.

**TRAFFICKERS USE:** FEAR, VIOLENCE, INTIMIDATION, THREATS

to ensure compliance and meet demand.

The **common age** a child enters sex trafficking is **14-16**; too young and naïve to realize what's happening.

Society may call it **PROSTITUTION**, but Federal Law calls it **SEX TRAFFICKING**.

Because of social stigma or misinformation, victims go:

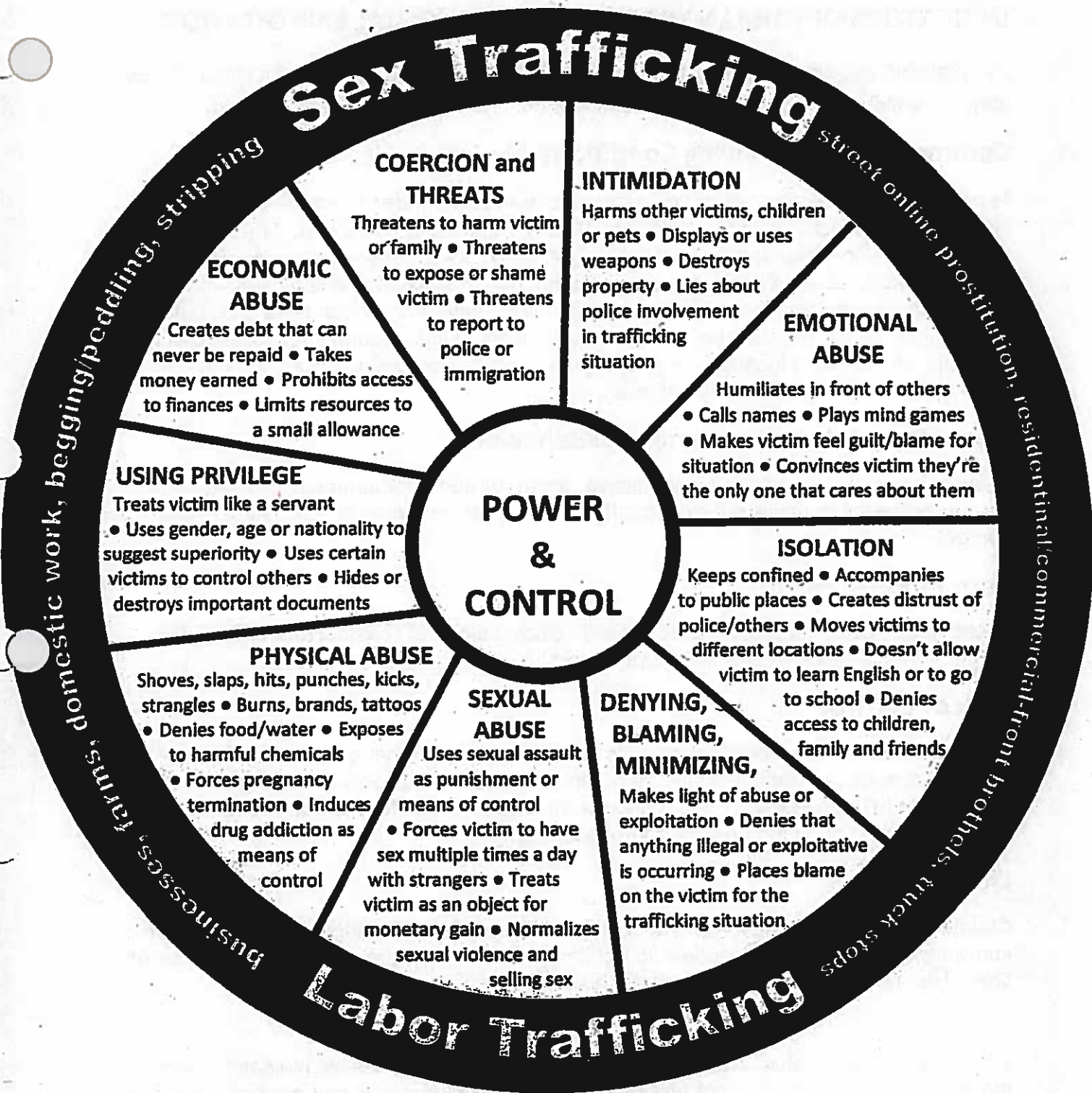
**UNIDENTIFIED** (silenced by fear and the control of the trafficker),

**MISIDENTIFIED** (pigeonholed into treatment for only surface issues).

**So**

Sex trafficked children are instead treated for:

drug abuse, alcohol abuse, domestic violence, delinquency, teenage pregnancy, STDS, abortion...all masking the true need...FREEDOM.



This wheel was adapted from the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project's Duluth Model Power and Control Wheel, available at [www.theduluthmodel.org](http://www.theduluthmodel.org)

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## **INDICATORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

Recognizing potential red flags and knowing the indicators of human trafficking is a key step in identifying more victims and helping them find the assistance they need.

**Common Work and Living Conditions:** The individual(s) in question:

Is not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes. Is under 18 and is providing commercial sex acts. Is in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp / manager. Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips. Works excessively long and/or unusual hours. Is not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work. Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off. Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work. High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)

### **Poor Mental Health or Abnormal Behavior**

Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid. Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement. Avoids eye contact.

### **Poor Physical Health**

Lacks health care. Appears malnourished. Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture.

### **Lack of Control**

Has few or no personal possessions. Is not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account. Is not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport). Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)

### **Other**

Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where he/she is staying/address. Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or do not know what city he/she is in. Loss of sense of time. Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story.

This list is not exhaustive and represents only a selection of possible indicators. Also, the red flags in this list may not be present in all trafficking cases and are not cumulative. Learn more at [www.traffickingresourcecenter.org](http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org).



## **Forensic Nursing Service @ Fraser Health**

Fraser Health Authority has designed a **Human Trafficking Screening Protocol**, with the following sample questions:

What type of work do you do?

Can you leave your job or situation if you want?

Can you come and go as you please?

Have you been threatened if you try to leave?

Have you been physically harmed in any way?

What are your working or living conditions like?

Where do you sleep and eat?

Do you sleep in a bed, cot or on the floor?

Have you been deprived of food, water, sleep or medical care?

Do you have permission to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom?

Are there locks on your doors and windows so you cannot get out?

Has anyone threatened your family?

Has your identification for documentation been taken from you?

Is anyone forcing you to do anything that you do not want to do?

**Evaluation of safety:** Are you feeling safe right now? Is it safe for me to talk to you? Do you have any concerns for your safety? Is there anything I can do for you?

# Child Sex Trafficking in BC

**Buying and selling children for sex is one of the fastest growing crimes in Canada, and it is happening in communities across BC.**

Globalization, unregulated technology, lack of law enforcement and inadequate prevention education is allowing this crime to grow globally.

Human sex trafficking (HT) involves the recruitment, transportation or harbouring of people for the purpose of exploitation through the use of force, coercion, fraud, deception or threats against the victim or person known to them. It is known as modern day slavery. According to the US State department's annual global report on trafficking in persons (TIP), Canada is a source, transit and destination for sex trafficking. (<https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/>)

Child sex trafficking is a lucrative crime. It has low costs and huge profits; a trafficker can make \$280,000 per victim, per year. The average age of entry into prostitution in Canada is 12-14 years of age, although traffickers are known to target younger children. Traffickers seek young victims both to service the demand for sex with those who look young, and because these victims are easier to manipulate and control.

The biggest problem in Canada is that people do not know there is a problem; therefore, child sex trafficking is expanding in the dark. Every child can be a target and a potential victim, but learning about this issue is the first step.

**Five things that parents can do to help prevent their children from being lured into sex trafficking:**

## **1. Set a high standard of love within your home**

The way you define and express love shapes your children's self-image, confidence and opinions of future relationships. Treat them the way you want their future partners to treat them. Help them to distinguish between real love and empty promises or cheap gifts.

## **2. Talk to your children about sexual abuse**

According to the US Department of Justice, someone in the US is sexually assaulted every two minutes, of which 29% are between the ages of 12-17. Let your children know that if anyone has or ever does hurt them, they can talk to you. This is the most important thing you can say. Don't assume they have not been hurt by sexual violence before. Leave the door open for your child to talk about past circumstances that they haven't shared with you.

## **3. Talk to your children about sex trafficking**

Discuss ways children and teens are targeted for sex trafficking. Let them know that traffickers specifically try to woo young girls and boys with promises of a better life – whether it's promises of love and attention, or promises of nice things and trips. Traffickers can be male or female, even classmates. Traffickers may even use kids to recruit other kids.

## **4. Talk to your children about the dangers of social media**

It is important to provide practical safety tips, such as: don't share personal information on the internet; don't accept Facebook requests from unknown people; NEVER share naked photos of yourself with anyone; and tell a parent or a trusted adult if you feel threatened or uncomfortable online. Children also need help defining friendships. Teach them that a friend is not someone you met yesterday and that a "friend" on Facebook is not the same thing as a friendship.

## **5. Pay attention to your children**

Monitor your children's social media accounts. Look for ways to meet their friends, their friends' parents and those they hang out with. Be alert to boyfriends who are much older, or friendships that tend to isolate your child from other friends or family. Notice if your child has new clothing items, makeup products, cell phone or other items and ask how they acquired them.

#### Resources and Links:

- Covenant House (crises program for ages 16-24): [info@covenanthousebc.org](mailto:info@covenanthousebc.org), 604-685-7474
- Internet Safety Tips: [www.Cybertip.ca](http://www.Cybertip.ca)
- Fraser Health Forensic Nurse Service (24 hours): 1-855-814-8194
- Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868
- Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons (OCTIP): 1-888-712-7974 (24/7 interpretation available), 604-660-5199, [octip@gov.bc.ca](mailto:octip@gov.bc.ca)
- Plea Community Services Society (assisting youth 24/7): [onyx@plea.bc.ca](mailto:onyx@plea.bc.ca), 604-708-2647
- Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter (24/7): 604-872-8212, [info@rapereliefshelter.bc.ca](mailto:info@rapereliefshelter.bc.ca)
- RCMP: Victims of Human Trafficking National Headquarters (24 hours): 1-866-677-7267
- Trafficking Resource Centre (USA): [www.traffickingresourcecenter.org](http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org)
- VictimLinkBC (24/7): 1-800-563-0808 Ministry of Public Safety, BC
- Youth Against Violence (24/7): [info@youthagainstviolenceline.com](mailto:info@youthagainstviolenceline.com), 1-800-680-4264

#### Authorities Contacts:

- RCMP: [www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca); 1-855-850-4640 OR 1-800-771-5401
- Ministry of Child Protection Services: 1-800-663-9122 or 604-660-4927 (24 hours) or 310-1234 if a child is in danger to reach Ministry of Child and Family Development
- Crime Stoppers : 1-800-222-TIPS (8477)

#### About the Author:

Cathy Peters raises awareness of Child Sex Trafficking to all three levels of government in British Columbia, police agencies and the public. She is a former inner city high school teacher and has volunteered for two Members of Parliament (John Weston/BC, Joy Smith/Manitoba). She has made hundreds of presentations, including to City Councils, School Boards, Police Boards, high schools, universities and law enforcement agencies.

For information about her prevention education presentations, please contact Cathy Peters at [ca.peters@telus.net](mailto:ca.peters@telus.net)

#### Additional Resources:

**Children of the Street Society (Coquitlam)** provides prevention education in BC schools; 25,000 students last school year Grades 3-12. They have an excellent website with tools/resources listed for every community in BC:

<https://www.childrenofthestreet.com/>

**Joy Smith Foundation (Manitoba)** provides prevention education, resources and an overview of human sex trafficking Canada: <http://www.joysmithfoundation.com/>

**Shared Hope International (Washington State)** sponsors The JuST (Juvenile Sex Trafficking) Conference in the USA; an event that spotlights the most pressing issues in the anti-trafficking field. Visit: [www.justconference.org](http://www.justconference.org) for more information.

A MODERN EQUAL SOCIETY DOES NOT BUY AND SELL WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

# the truth about child & youth sexual exploitation

Sexual exploitation is a devastating form of human trafficking and sexual abuse, and it's happening *here*, in British Columbia.

**100,000 to 300,000**

children and youth are sexually exploited in North America every year.

Sexual exploitation may involve considerations for both tangible and intangible things such as:



MONEY



LOVE



RIDES



SHELTER



ACCEPTANCE



SAFETY



FOOD



DRUGS & ALCOHOL

It involves the exchange of a sexual act with a child or youth under the age of 18 for anything.

**★ vancouver** has been identified as a destination for travelling sex offenders who predominantly originate from the United States.

Sexual exploitation can AFFECT ANY YOUTH regardless of

ability location age religion sexual orientation income



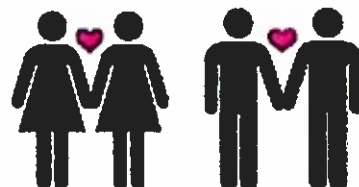
12-14 is the average age that children reported their first experience of being exploited through the sex trade.

other facts about sexual exploitation >>



up to half of sexually exploited youth identified as Aboriginal

youth who identified as LGBTQ were more likely to be sexually exploited than their heterosexual peers



# the truth about child & youth sexual exploitation



Due to the popularity of technology, the sexual exploitation of children and youth has become less visible on the street, but **online exploitation** has exploded in recent years.

**93%**

of teens ages 12-17 go online

**74%**

of teens ages 12-17 have profiles on social networking sites



**1 in 5 youth** ages 10-17 years old have been sexually solicited online.

**75%** did not tell a parent.

Sexual exploitation also includes the creation, distribution and possession of child sexual abuse videos/images (or child pornography), which is typically seen through peer-to-peer exploitation such as **sexting**, as well as through sexual solicitations from **online predators**.

« image sharing

**CANADA**

remains **2nd**

in the world to hosting the most child sexual abuse images online, next to the United States.

Child pornography offences have increased

**900%**  
 in the last five years.

**CYBERTIP REPORTS:**

**24%**

of reported cases were of a youth being threatened by a suspect, with the largest number of threats involving the distribution of existing images of the victim

**38%**

of cases were of suspects using **instant messaging** to lure victims

**35%**

of cases were of suspects sending victims sexual images of themselves, or requested youth to go on webcam where youth would see a sexualized image of suspect

SOURCES:

- PREDATOR WATCH (PREDATORWATCH.CA)
- IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK: SEXUALLY EXPLOITED YOUTH IN BC (2008)
- NATIONAL CENTRE FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN (MISSINGKIDS.COM)
- EVERY IMAGE, EVERY CHILD (2009)
- CYBERTIP.CA

## What is Sexual Exploitation?

Sexual exploitation is when a youth, under the age of 18, exchanges a sexual act for **anything**.

Sexual exploitation can affect any young person, regardless of their age, ability, ethnicity, gender, religion, income, geographic locations, or sexual orientations. Exploited youth may exchange a sexual act for tangible things in return, such as money, drugs and alcohol, clothing, or food as well as intangible things such as love, protection, acceptance, or popularity.

Our **mission** is to take a proactive approach through public awareness, education, and early intervention strategies to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and youth, while also offering support to families.

### Five Warning Signs of Recruitment

1. Age Difference
2. Gifting
3. Lifestyle Changes
4. Isolation
5. Gut Feeling



**1 IN 5** YOUTH AGES 10-17  
HAVE RECEIVED A SEXUAL  
SOLICITATION ONLINE.

### Our Programs:

- TCO<sup>2</sup> (Taking Care of Ourselves, Taking Care of Others)
- Youth Art Engagement Project (YAEP)
- It Can Happen to Anyone (ITCHA)
- Total Respect of Ourselves & Others (TROO)
- Being Respectful of Others (BRO)

## RESOURCES

**Canadian Centre for Child Protection**  
W: [www.protectchildren.ca](http://www.protectchildren.ca)

**Children of the Street Society**  
P: 604.777.7510  
Toll Free: 1.877.551.6611  
W: [www.childrenofthestreet.com](http://www.childrenofthestreet.com)  
E: [info@childrenofthestreet.com](mailto:info@childrenofthestreet.com)  
A: 208-1130 Austin Avenue, Coquitlam, B.C., V3K 3P5

**Child Protection**  
P: 310.1234  
Afterhours: 1.800.633.9122

**Crime Stoppers**  
P: 1.800.222.8477  
W: [www.bccrimestoppers.com](http://www.bccrimestoppers.com)

**Cybertip**  
W: [www.cybertip.ca](http://www.cybertip.ca)

**National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre**  
W: [www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ncecc-cncee/index-accueil-eng.htm](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ncecc-cncee/index-accueil-eng.htm)

**Need Help Now**  
W: <http://needhelpnow.ca>

**Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons**  
P: 1.888.712.7974  
W: [www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octip](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octip)

**Safe Online Outreach Society (SOLOS)**  
W: [www.safeonlineoutreach.com](http://www.safeonlineoutreach.com)

**The Door That's Not Locked**  
W: [www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca](http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca)

**Youth Against Violence Line**  
P: 1-800-680-4264  
Text: 604.836.6381  
W: <http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/crimeprevention/publications/docs/yavl.pdf>  
E: [info@youthagainstviolenceline.com](mailto:info@youthagainstviolenceline.com)

**VictimLink BC**  
P: 1-800-563-0808  
W: [www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victim\\_services/](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victim_services/)

**PLEA Community Services Society of BC**  
W: [www.asaferspace.ca](http://www.asaferspace.ca)

# Gender Equality and Sexual Exploitation in Canada

**Goal:** To inform and educate the community on the issues of gender equality and sexual exploitation.

**Background:**

*Prostitution is both a cause and consequence of male supremacy and that if women and men are equal, prostitution would not exist; it also means that if women and men are ever to become equal, prostitution must not exist.*

Intro, xxviii – Julie Blindel, *The Pimping of Prostitution*

As a global leader, Canada took a courageous step forward in 2014 by adopting the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act, (PCEPAct) which criminalizes those who purchase sex while decriminalizing those who sell.

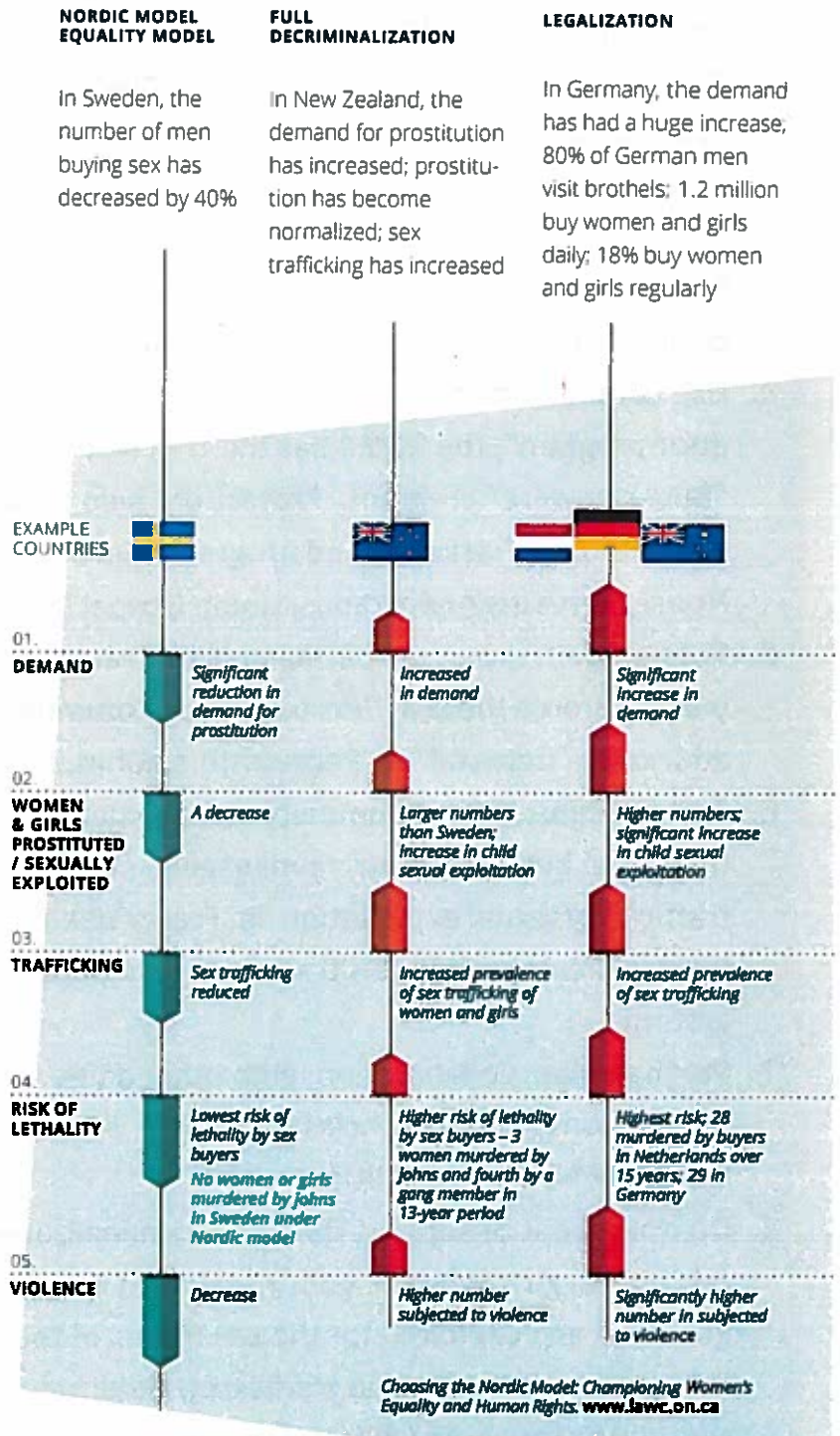
Several other countries including Ireland, Northern Ireland, France, Norway, Sweden and Iceland have introduced similar laws that hold the buyers of sex accountable for their behavior.

Research focused on Amsterdam, Germany and New Zealand has indicated that full decriminalization and/or legalization have failed. In those countries, there has been an increase of trafficking, increase in the number of murdered women, increase in organized crime and violence towards women and children. It is a gift to the pimps and organized crime!

**BuyingSexIsACrime.org**

VCASE is a diverse and experienced group of individuals and organizations that have worked to end the sexual exploitation of men, women, and children for many years. We are lawyers, judges, social workers, professionals, teachers, front-line activists and advocates for an end to sexual exploitation in Canada.

## Educate, Reflect, Act



**VCASE**

Vancouver Collective  
Against Sexual  
Exploitation

## **8 strategies for Cities and Municipalities to consider:**

**Key: A Modern Equal Society does not buy and sell women and children.**

1. Learn about the issue; Google “thetraffickedhuman.org”, read “Invisible Chains” by Benjamin Perrin, “Pornland” by Dr. Gail Dines (world expert on porn research). Have staff take the BC OCTIP (Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons) **free online course**. Encourage police to take HT course on the Police Knowledge Network.
2. Incorporate the United Nations 4 Pillars in a local strategy to stop Human trafficking/sexual exploitation: **Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, Partnerships**.
3. **Prevention:** raise awareness in community. “Education is our greatest weapon”. ie. Children of the Street Society does school and community programs. Encourage “Men End exploitation” movements: ie. Moosehide Campaign, Westcoast Boys Club Network. Support porn addiction services for youth; ie “Fightthenewdrug” program recognizing the public health effects to youth of viewing violent sexual material.
4. Use communications to support a cultural mindshift. Ontario has “Saving the girl next door program”, the RCMP has the “I’m Not for Sale” campaign. King County (Seattle) has “Buyer Beware” program. **Protection:** help victims, have exit strategies in place for them, consider 24-7 “wrap-around programs” ie. Salvation Army “Deborah’s Gate”, Covenant House, Servants Anonymous, Union Gospel Mission.
5. **Prosecution:** increase policing budget, training and priorities. Have “john” deterrents in place, enforce the law; “**Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act**” which addresses “**demand**” ie. Perpetrators, johns, buyers of commercially paid sex.
6. **Partnerships:** Train community stakeholders: Health care workers, fire department, municipal business licensing managers, educators, businesses to recognize human trafficking/sexual exploitation ie. Fraser Health Authority has a human trafficking protocol, Surrey Fire department is trained to recognize HT indicators. Train judges/criminal justice system.
7. **Partnerships:** Collaboration: with other cities and municipalities at local government associations, Police agencies and RCMP, 3 levels of government (civic, provincial, federal); UBCM, FCM with Resolutions.
8. Do not accept or support the full decriminalization of prostitution because the vulnerable (aboriginal girls/women, youth, children) in our communities will be targets to be lured, groomed and exploited for the sex trade. In the global sex trade there is no demarcation between prostitution and trafficking. **Goal:** safe, healthy, working, vibrant communities that are fit for youth/children, vulnerable, indigenous populations.

**National Human Trafficking Hotline Number: 1-833-900-1010**



It happens  
in our  
communities.



If you are a victim/survivor of  
forced prostitution or forced labour,  
or think someone is, we can help.



Canadian  
Human  
Trafficking  
Hotline

Registered Canadian Charity:  
#76882 1498 RR001

CALL  
**1.833.900.1010**

ONLINE  
**[canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca](http://canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca)**

24/7 | Toll Free | Confidential | 200+ languages

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