

Dear Mayor Jack Crompton and Whistler Municipal Council,

March 1, 2021.

FEBRUARY 22 is NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY.

My name is Cathy Peters and as a private citizen I have been raising awareness regarding **Human Sex Trafficking, Sexual Exploitation and Child Sex Trafficking in British Columbia** to BC politicians (Civic, Provincial and Federal), police agencies and to the public for the past 7 years.

You may be aware of my advocacy and I presented to Whistler Council a few years ago. Braden Dupuis did an excellent article in the Whistler Pique dated January 31, 2019 on the Global Sex Industry. I also had a booth at UBCM Vancouver Convention in 2019, **"An Anti-Human trafficking Initiative"**.

I was a former inner city "life skills" high school teacher 40 years ago where my focus was to keep students out of gang life and the sex industry.

Due to **globalization, an unregulated internet, limited law enforcement and lack of prevention education**, the sex industry has grown rapidly and is specifically targeting the vulnerable, Indigenous, LGBTQ2, youth at risk, new migrants, runaway youth, youth in care, disabled and any girl under 14 years of age. Some boys are targeted as well. No community is immune.

The media narrative in BC is that "sex work" is legitimate as a choice and a job. However, there is "another side" that is not being reported. I speak for the voiceless; the 95%, who are coerced, tricked, manipulated, forced and lured into the sex industry. It is not a choice or a job.

Please view my new website: www.beamazingcampaign.org. Page 2 has two teaching video workshops; one for parents and one for youth.

I have worked on a Federal (paper) petition with a sponsoring BC MP. If you would like a copy of it please contact me.

ASK: to present to your City Council and/or City Hall staff.

I have included useful resource information in this package. For background information refer to the **TIP (Trafficking in Persons) 2020 report** from the USA State Department that gives an assessment of 185 countries in the world. The summary on Canada is important to read. Ontario has been cited as best practices globally; BC is decades behind any province in addressing this crime.

Please contact me if you support my advocacy and forward my name and information to stakeholders in your area. CoVid has exacerbated the problem since the luring is taking place online and youth have more unsupervised screen time.

I look forward to hear from you.

Sincerely, Cathy Peters

BC anti-human trafficking educator, speaker, advocate

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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.

(now 12-14 years)

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:

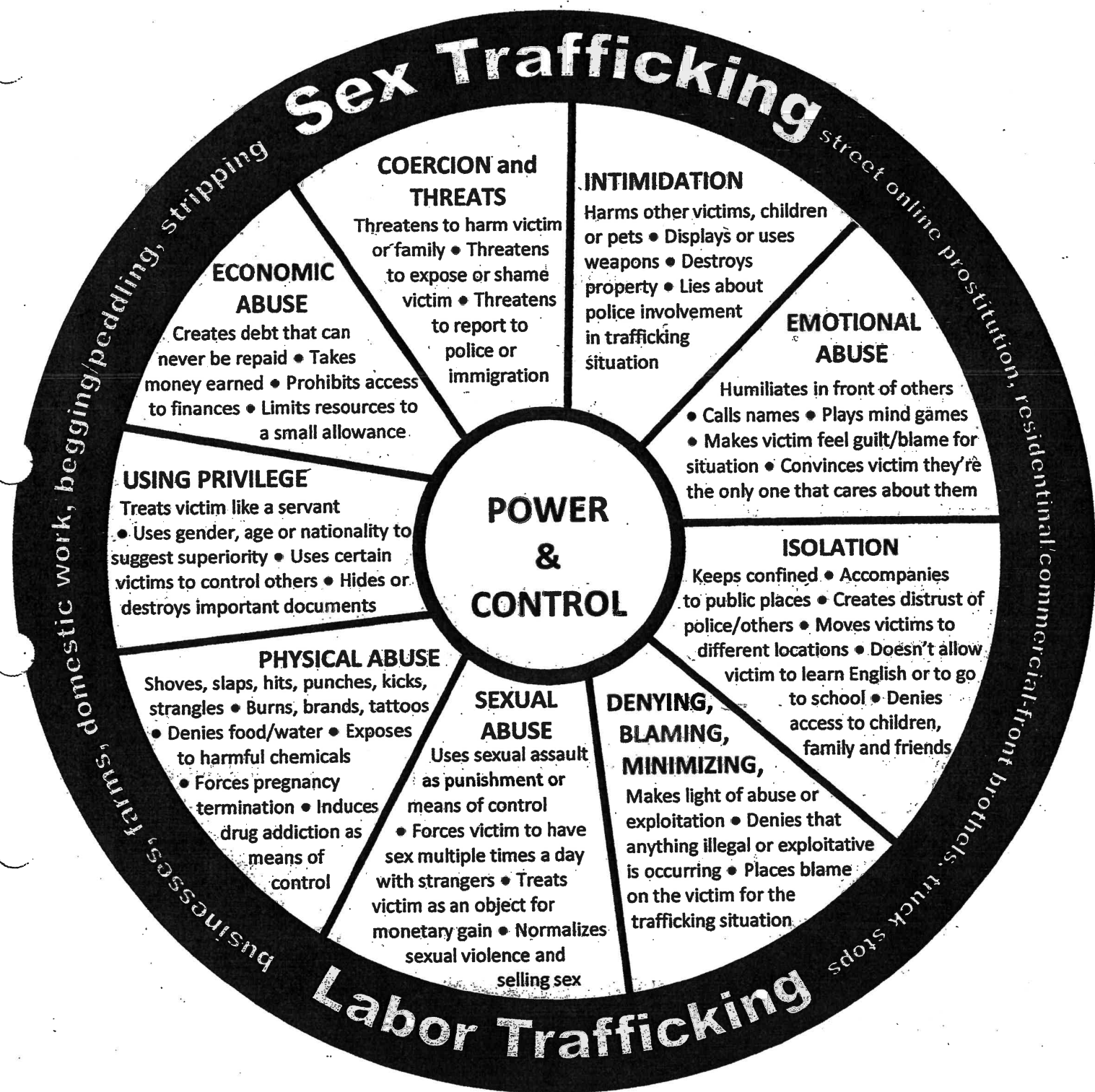
UNIDENTIFIED (silenced by fear and the control of the trafficker),

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

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10 strategies for cities and municipalities to consider:

Key: It is unacceptable for women and children to be bought and sold in a modern equal society.

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” deterrants in place, **enforce the law; “Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act” which addresses “demand”** ie. perpetrators, johns, buyers of commercially paid sex.
6. **Train community stakeholders: Health care workers, fire department, municipal business licensing managers** 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. No 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 today, which we are a part of, there is no demarcation between prostitution and trafficking. **Goal: safe, healthy, working, vibrant communities.**

CANADIAN FEDERAL LAW:

“The Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act”

1. **Targets the demand** by targeting the buyer of sex; the predator, pimp, trafficker, john are criminalized 2. Recognizes the seller of sex is a victim; usually female and is not criminalized 3. Exit strategies put in place to assist the victim out of the sex trade.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS September 2015:

B53

HUMAN TRAFFICKING; NCLGA Executive

WHEREAS human trafficking is a real and devastating issue in British Columbia;
AND WHEREAS significant work & research has been done as of late to aid in the prevention and prosecution of human trafficking throughout Canada:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the RCMP, local police forces and local governments to work collaboratively in order to implement the recommendations found within the National Task Force on Sex Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada's recent report ("NO MORE' Ending Sex -Trafficking In Canada") as well as the Province of British Columbia's "Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking."
ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

B80

RAPE CULTURE IN CANADA; NCLGA Executive

WHEREAS sexual assaults continue to be committed across Canada, and victims are of every age, race, income and gender;
AND WHEREAS sexual assaults are under reported, and prosecution and conviction rates are low:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM advocate for an intergovernmental task force to be convened to determine the steps needed to erase the “rape culture” that is pervasive in schools, universities, workplaces and elsewhere across Canada;
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be mandated to elicit testimony from victims in order to determine the steps needed to improve the reporting, arrest and conviction rates across Canada.
ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

CHAPTER 25

An Act to amend the Criminal Code in response to the Supreme Court of Canada decision in *Attorney General of Canada v. Bedford* and to make consequential amendments to other Acts

[Assented to 6th November, 2014]

Preamble

Whereas the Parliament of Canada has grave concerns about the exploitation that is inherent in prostitution and the risks of violence posed to those who engage in it;

Whereas the Parliament of Canada recognizes the social harm caused by the objectification of the human body and the commodification of sexual activity;

Whereas it is important to protect human dignity and the equality of all Canadians by discouraging prostitution, which has a disproportionate impact on women and children;

Whereas it is important to denounce and prohibit the purchase of sexual services because it creates a demand for prostitution;

Whereas it is important to continue to denounce and prohibit the procurement of persons for the purpose of prostitution and the development of economic interests in the exploitation of the prostitution of others as well as the commercialization and institutionalization of prostitution;

Whereas the Parliament of Canada wishes to encourage those who engage in prostitution to report incidents of violence and to leave prostitution;

And whereas the Parliament of Canada is committed to protecting communities from the harms associated with prostitution;

Now, therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

SHORT TITLE

1. This Act may be cited as the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*.

Short title

CHAPITRE 25

Loi modifiant le Code criminel pour donner suite à la décision de la Cour suprême du Canada dans l'affaire *Procureur général du Canada c. Bedford* et apportant des modifications à d'autres lois en conséquence

[Sanctionnée le 6 novembre 2014]

Préambule

Attendu :

que le Parlement du Canada a de graves préoccupations concernant l'exploitation inhérente à la prostitution et les risques de violence auxquels s'exposent les personnes qui se livrent à cette pratique;

que le Parlement du Canada reconnaît les dommages sociaux causés par la chosification du corps humain et la marchandisation des activités sexuelles;

qu'il importe de protéger la dignité humaine et l'égalité de tous les Canadiens et Canadiennes en décourageant cette pratique qui a des conséquences négatives en particulier chez les femmes et les enfants;

qu'il importe de dénoncer et d'interdire l'achat de services sexuels parce qu'il contribue à créer une demande de prostitution;

qu'il importe de continuer à dénoncer et à interdire le proxénétisme et le développement d'intérêts économiques à partir de l'exploitation d'autrui par la prostitution, de même que la commercialisation et l'institutionnalisation de la prostitution;

que le Parlement du Canada souhaite encourager les personnes qui se livrent à la prostitution à signaler les cas de violence et à abandonner cette pratique;

que le Parlement du Canada souscrit pleinement à la protection des collectivités contre les méfaits liés à cette pratique,

Sa Majesté, sur l'avis et avec le consentement du Sénat et de la Chambre des communes du Canada, édicte :

TITRE ABRÉGÉ

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?

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.

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, 604-685-7474
- Internet Safety Tips: 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
- Plea Community Services Society (assisting youth 24/7): onyx@plea.bc.ca, 604-708-2647
- Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter (24/7): 604-872-8212, info@rapereliefshelter.bc.ca
- RCMP: Victims of Human Trafficking National Headquarters (24 hours): 1-866-677-7267
- Trafficking Resource Centre (USA): www.traffickingresourcecenter.org
- VictimLinkBC (24/7): 1-800-563-0808 Ministry of Public Safety, BC
- Youth Against Violence (24/7): info@youthagainstviolenceline.com, 1-800-680-4264

Authorities Contacts:

- RCMP: 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

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 for more information.

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