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## A. ORGANIZATION OF VICTIM SERVICES IN ONTARIO

### Victims and Vulnerable Persons Division

The mission of the Victims and Vulnerable Persons Division (VVPD) within the Ministry of the Attorney General is to support, protect and advocate on behalf of victims of crime, children, or incapable adults by fostering a culture that promotes service excellence, empathy, and respect.

The VVPD is composed of three distinct program areas and a Divisional Corporate Support Branch:

1. Ontario Victim Services (OVS)
2. Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee (OPGT)
3. Office of the Children's Lawyer (OCL)
4. Divisional Corporate Support Branch (DCSB)

The Assistant Deputy Attorney General (ADAG), VVPD also provides administrative oversight to the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), an advisory agency on victims' issues to Ontario's Attorney General. Members are appointed by Order-in-Council.

### Ontario Victim Services

Ontario Victim Services provides direct services to victims of crime across Ontario and funds community organizations that deliver support services to victims. Ontario Victim Services is responsible for leading policy and program development to address victimization. Through a corporate office and six regional offices, it also supports the operation of existing programs to support victims, and contributes to government-wide policy and program priorities that impact victims of crime.

This work includes integrated planning, management and delivery of province-wide services to meet the diverse needs of victims of crime in Ontario. This work also requires working closely with divisions across the Ministry of the Attorney General and other ministries to ensure that the diverse needs of victims are included in decision making, and that victim services are effective and coordinated.

Ontario Victim Services provides support services for victims of crime through:

- Oversight for 15 programs delivered by approximately 220 community based transfer payment agencies (e.g. Sexual Assault Centres, Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario).
- The Victim/Witness Assistance Program (V/WAP) delivered by MAG employees for clients going through the criminal court process.
- The direct administration of several programs including the Victim Quick Response Program, Independent Legal Advice Pilot Program for Survivors of Sexual Assault, and Financial Assistance for Families of Homicide Victims.
- Creation of a free legal support pilot program for survivors and potential victims of human trafficking who can access free and confidential legal advice. This

- includes assistance with filing restraining order applications and legal representation at application hearings in any Ontario Court of Justice.
- Providing transfer payment funding to the Supervised Access Program (SAP), delivered by 35 agencies across the province. SAP provides families with a safe environment in which children can have access to non-custodial parents and caregivers through supervised visits and/or exchanges.

Ontario Victim Services supports the expansion of provincial victim services in communities across Ontario to ensure proper planning and implementation at the community, regional and provincial levels.

### **Programs and Services for Victims of Crime**

The Ministry of the Attorney General supports a number of programs to support the needs of victims of crime. Some of these programs are offered directly through the Ministry of the Attorney General while others are through community organizations through transfer payment agreements. Some of these programs include:

#### *Victim/Witness Assistance Program*

The Victim/Witness Assistance Program (V/WAP) provides information, assistance and support to victims and witnesses of crime to increase their understanding of, and participation in, the criminal court process. Services are provided on a priority basis to the most vulnerable victims and witnesses of violent crime such as domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, homicide and hate crime. Assistance is also available to victims with special needs, families of victims of homicide, and families of victims of motor vehicle fatalities resulting in criminal charges. Services begin once police have laid charges and continue until the court case is over.

Victim/Witness Assistance Program services are offered directly by Ministry staff and are offered in all 54 court districts. After charges have been laid, the police or Crown attorneys refer victims and witnesses to the program for assistance and support. Victims and witnesses can also access the program on their own.

Victim/Witness Assistance Program services include:

- Information about victims' rights, the criminal justice process and their specific case;
- Access to copies of court orders (bail conditions, probation orders, peace bonds);
- Trial preparation and court orientation; and
- Needs assessment and referrals to appropriate agencies, and crisis intervention and emotional support.

Staff also provide input to Crown attorneys on issues related to bail, safety concerns, the resolution of charges, release conditions, requests for publication bans and testimonial aids and advocate for victims during the criminal court process. They also



participate in public education activities, engage in community initiatives and the development of related protocols with community partners.

#### *Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario*

The Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario (VCAO) Program provides crisis intervention services to victims of crime. These services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at the request of the police and/or service agencies. VCAO are transfer payment funded services that are offered by local community organizations. Please see the **Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario Program Standards at Appendix A.**

There are 47 service delivery organizations that operate as VCAO in Ontario. Please see the **List of Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario Agencies List at Appendix B.** All service delivery organizations provide all victims with services within their communities.

VCAO funded alternative service delivery providers in Northern Ontario include:

Region	Agency Name
North	Ah-Shawah-Bin Sioux Lookout/Lac Seul Victim Support Services
North	Greenstone Victim Services
North	Rainy River District Victim Services Program
North	Superior North Victim Services
North	Wawa and Area Victim Services

In addition to on-site crisis intervention, other services offered through the VCAO program include:

- Safety planning for all eligible victims of crime
- Referrals to appropriate community supports and services
- Provision of cellular telephones for eligible victims
- Needs assessments and customized service plans
- Assisting eligible victims with emergency transportation to a safe location; crime-scene cleanup; funeral expenses; emergency home repairs to items that pose a safety risk; and emergency counselling
- Enhanced support for vulnerable victims
- Referrals to community agencies.

Persons wishing to find a VCAO service provider can locate one through the online [Victim Services Directory](#) or by calling the Victim Support line toll-free at 1-888-579-2888, or 416-314-2447 in the Greater Toronto Area.



### ***Victim Quick Response Program***

The Victim Quick Response Program (VQRP) provides immediate assistance to victims of violent crime. This includes victims of:

- Homicide
- Attempted murder
- Serious assault (assault/threaten with a weapon, assault causing bodily harm, aggravated assault, kidnapping/abduction, forcible confinement, discharge of a firearm (where the individual is at substantial risk of harm), failure to provide the necessities of life, child abuse)
- Domestic violence (Intimate Partner)
- Sexual assault
- Human trafficking
- Hate crimes.

Please see **Victim Quick Response Program Standards at Appendix C.**

Eligible victims who have no other financial means can access the following services:

- Emergency home repairs to secure premises for the immediate safety of victims;
- Cell phones to prevent re-victimization;
- Emergency accommodation and meals where there are no secure housing options available;
- Emergency personal care items, such as diapers or clothing;
- Replacement of eyeglasses/contact lenses damaged or destroyed during the commission of a crime;
- Transportation costs to identify a homicide victim or to support a seriously injured victim;
- Removal of hate crime graffiti from home property and/or vehicles;
- Crime scene cleanup requiring specialized services;
- Contribution towards funeral expenses to assist families of homicide victims; and
- Counselling/traditional healing to provide short-term, early intervention support to help victims of serious crime.

In order to be eligible for VQRP services, the person must meet the following criteria:

- He/she must be a victim of a violent Criminal Code offence that occurred in Ontario and he/she must not be charged in relation to the crime; and
- He/she has no other financial resources to assist with the sought VQRP covered services.

Additionally, a person must apply to VQRP within designated timelines for specified services. A person must apply within 45 calendar days after the date of the crime in order to receive financial support for emergency crime scene cleanup and/or funeral expenses. A person must apply within 90 calendar days after the date of the crime in order to receive financial support in relation to counselling services and related

transportation costs. Please see **Victim Quick Response Program Application Form** at **Appendix D**.

There are 52 organizations that assist victims of crime with access to VQRP services including:

- 47 VCAO service delivery organizations;
- 2 police service boards; and
- 3 Indigenous organizations.

The police or community organization to which the crime is reported to refer individuals to a local VQRP service delivery organization. Most of these organizations are Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Services. These organizations will help the individual understand eligibility requirements, complete forms and identify local support services.

An individual must report a violent Criminal Code offence to a police service in the province of Ontario within the required timeframe. Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, or hate crimes may report the crime to a domestic violence shelter, sexual assault centre, hospital or other community agency providing services to victims in Ontario.

VQRP services have pre-determined maximum amounts of funding available per applicant.

Expense	Details	Maximum
Funeral	Provided to families of homicide victims	\$5,000
Counselling	Immediate and culturally appropriate short-term counselling to help reduce the impact of the crime  Options for group counselling/healing circles, transportation for victims living in rural/remote areas and accommodations for victims with disabilities are also available	Approximately ten sessions or \$1,000

Cleanup	Crime scene cleanup requiring specialized services	\$1,500
Emergency	<p>Emergency home repairs to secure premises for the immediate safety of victims</p> <p>Emergency accommodation, meals and personal care items where there are no secure housing options available</p> <p>Transportation costs to identify a homicide victim or support a seriously injured victim.</p> <p>Cellular phone to prevent re-victimization</p> <p>Emergency Vision Care</p>	Combined maximum of \$1,000 per occurrence

Decisions on VQRP applications are processed quickly. Applications regarding emergency and funeral expenses are processed within three business days of receiving the request. Applications regarding counselling services are processed within five business days.

The VQRP was created following a review of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board by the Ontario Ombudsman. The VQRP was created to provide victims of crime with immediate assistance for emergency expenses, funeral expenses and counselling.



### *Sexual Assault Centre Program*

Female victims and survivors of sexual assault who are 16 years of age or older are eligible for a variety of counselling, information and referral services from community-based Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Centres. These services include:

- accompanying a victim to court, a hospital or police station
- supportive peer counselling services (both one-to-one and group)
- sexual violence education and training for professionals and members of the public
- information and referral services

Sexual Assault Centres receive ministry funding through transfer payment agreements. Sexual Assault Centres can also provide long term support services for victims and assist with community referrals. Please see **Appendix E** for a **List of Sexual Assault Centre Service Providers**.

### *Criminal Injuries Compensation Board*

Established in 1971, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB) is an independent adjudicative tribunal under the *Compensation for Victims of Crime Act*. It is composed of a full time Chair, one full time Vice Chair, two part-time Vice Chairs and a team of adjudicators. The Chairs and the adjudicators are appointed by the Government of Ontario for fixed terms through an Order in Council.

The CICB assesses and awards financial compensation for victims and family members of deceased victims of violent crimes committed in Ontario. Anyone injured as a result of violent crime that took place in Ontario can apply for compensation. With the exception of crimes of sexual violence or of violence that occurred within a relationship of intimacy or dependency, applicants generally have two years from the incident date to file an application. Actual charges or convictions are not required.

The CICB can compensate victims for pain and suffering, loss of income, treatment expenses, funeral expenses and other costs that result from being a victim of crime. The CICB is committed to the principles of the *Victims' Bill of Rights*, 1995 which states that all victims should be treated with courtesy, compassion and respect for their personal dignity and privacy.

The CICB adjudicates matters through both an oral and written hearing process. The length of each process can differ.



## B. RELEVANT COMMUNITY/ GOVERNMENT TABLES & AGENCIES

### Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women Executive and Provincial Committees

In 2007, the *Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Indigenous Women* (the Strategic Framework) was developed in partnership with the Ontario Native Women's Association and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, along with the provincial government, following a series of summits, gatherings and research projects. The Strategic Framework provides guiding principles and eight strategic directions to end violence against Indigenous women, with goals and specific actions proposed for each strategic direction. It also provides four overall target outcomes and four major recommendations to be achieved through the implementation of the Strategic Framework. In 2008, the Strategic Framework was endorsed as an approach by government officials. The Joint Working Group to End Violence Against Indigenous Women (the Joint Working Group) was established in 2010 to advance the goals of the Strategic Framework. The Joint Working Group included both an Assistant Deputy Ministers and staff level table structure.

Walking Together: Ontario's Long-Term Strategy to End Violence Against Indigenous Women (The Long-Term Strategy) was established in 2016. The government agreed to restructure the Joint Working Group. The Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women Executive Committee and six Provincial Committees was formed to allow for further engagement with Indigenous organizations and communities. It was also created to focus on the implementation of the Long-Term Strategy. The mandate for the Executive and Provincial Committees is specific to the implementation of the Long-Term Strategy – they are not consultation tables.

The Executive Committee provides strategic guidance on the overall implementation of the Strategy. It is comprised of ten ministry partners, and seven Indigenous partners – Chiefs of Ontario, the Independent First Nations, Métis Nation of Ontario, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, the Ontario Native Women's Association, and Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. The Executive Committee meets at least two times per year. Meetings are co-chaired by Assistant Deputy Ministers at Indigenous Affairs Ontario (IAO) and Women's Issues (WI). The Deputy Ministers of IAO and WI meet with the Executive Committee once a year. See **Appendix F** for the **Terms of Reference of the Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women Executive Committee**.

The six Provincial Committees meet quarterly and provide a forum where the Ontario government and Indigenous partners work together to implement key initiatives under the strategy's areas of action. Provincial Committees are co-chaired by ministry Directors and Indigenous partners. The Provincial Committees will also act as a forum for identifying emerging and priority areas for action to address violence

against Indigenous women. See **Appendix G** for the **Terms of Reference of the Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women Provincial Committees**.

The six Provincial Committees are as follows:

- Prevention and Awareness;
- Improved Data and Research;
- Child, Youth and Families;
- Policing and Justice;
- Human Trafficking; and
- Community Safety and Healing.

The Provincial Committees will support a cross-government approach to ending violence against Indigenous women while not duplicating efforts and work being undertaken by other tables. However, linkages to initiatives and outcomes of other engagement tables will be communicated back to relevant Provincial Committees.

#### **Provincial Committee on Human Trafficking**

In June 2016, Ontario's Strategy to End Human Trafficking was announced. The announcement was part of a commitment included in the Long-Term Strategy. See Section C of this document for more information on the Provincial Human Trafficking Strategy.

The Provincial Committee on Human Trafficking was established as part of the reconstituted Joint Working Group structure. The Provincial Committee on Human Trafficking was deemed responsible for implementing Indigenous-specific components to the Human Trafficking Strategy, as it related to the Long-Term Strategy.

Like the other Provincial Committees, the Provincial Committee on Human Trafficking is co-chaired by a ministry representative and an Indigenous organization representative. The Ministry representative is Jennifer Richardson, the Director of the Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office. The Indigenous organization co-chair is Cora-Lee McGuire-Cyrette from the Ontario Native Women's Association.

### Office for Victims of Crime

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) acts as the voice of victims in government by helping to ensure that Ontario's victim services are effective, coordinated and meets the needs of our diverse population.

Enshrined in the Victims Bill of Rights, 1995, the OVC is a permanent advisory body that provides advice to the Attorney General on victims' issues, including advising on:

- Ensuring respect for the principles set out in the Victims' Bill of Rights
- Developing, implementing and maintaining provincial victims services standards
- Using the Victim's Justice Fund to provide and improve victims services
- Preventing re-victimization
- Research and education on the treatment of victims in the criminal justice system
- Victim-related legislation and policy



## **C. ONTARIO'S ACTION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

### Ontario's Ongoing Work to Address Human Trafficking

#### **2011**

The Ontario government invested in a number of initiatives aimed at combating human trafficking:

- Adding the category of “human trafficking” and making it a unique identifier on the Ministry's Victim Services Directory to help victims find information and services specific to their needs quickly and easily;
- Providing grants to emergency services and community agencies to help them better support victims of human trafficking; and
- Continued funding of an online training initiative for service providers working with victims of human trafficking. In 2014/15, the Ministry enhanced the online training to better equip service providers serving Indigenous victims of human trafficking.

#### **Report of Select Committee on Sexual Violence and Harassment (2015)**

On December 10, 2015, the Select Committee on Sexual Violence and Harassment of the Ontario Legislature released its final report. Human trafficking was identified as an additional topic of significance for the committee. The committee found that human trafficking is a significant problem in Ontario and noted that human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation is the most common form of trafficking in Canada, with Ontario functioning as a major “hub”. The Committee made two recommendations that:

- The Ontario government provide resources for the development of a coordinated approach to help victims of human trafficking, allowing providers of support services and the criminal justice system to share information and work collaboratively; and
- The Ontario government develop a multi-ministerial, province-wide strategy on human trafficking.

#### **Related Initiatives and Strategies**

##### *Sexual Violence and Harassment Action Plan (2015)*

In March 2015, the government announced a three year strategy to address sexual violence and harassment. The plan included specific action to address prevention and awareness, legislative reform, enhanced training, the creation of an intragovernmental table, developing an enhanced prosecution model, and funding for community supports.



### *Walking Together: Ontario's Long-Term Strategy to End Violence Against Indigenous Women*

In February 2016, the government announced a three year strategy to End Violence Against Women commonly referred to as "the Long-Term Strategy". Ontario is the first Canadian jurisdiction to launch a dedicated strategy focused on ending violence against Indigenous women developed in collaboration with Indigenous partners. The Long-Term Strategy was developed in collaboration with Indigenous communities and organizations of the former Joint Working Group.

Under the Long-Term Strategy, the Joint Working Group was restructured to focus on implementation and engage more Indigenous partners. The new governance structure consists of an Executive Committee and six Provincial Committees co-chaired by different Ministry and Indigenous partners. For more information, please refer to Section B of this document.

The strategy includes initiatives grouped under the following pillars: children, youth and families; community safety and healing; policing and justice; prevention and awareness; leadership, collaboration and alignment; and improved data and research.

Since February 2016, the government has made progress on commitments under each pillar of the Long-Term Strategy. Key achievements to date include:

- Supporting more than 200 Indigenous communities in developing and delivering culturally appropriate community-based programming and services through the Family Well-Being Program.
- Expanding the Kizhaay Anishinaabe Niin – I Am A Kind Man program from five to 26 sites across Ontario to support Indigenous men through healing and violence prevention programming.
- Hosting the fifth National Indigenous Women's Summit.
- Launching Ontario's Strategy to End Human Trafficking.
- Beginning the implementation of public service wide anti-racism and Indigenous cultural competency training.
- Establishing a new governance model for the oversight of the implementation of the Long-Term Strategy, including the establishment of new capacity funding agreements with seven Indigenous partners on the Executive Committee.
- Funding three Indigenous-specific research projects that examined key issues specific to reporting sexual violence and harassment to police.
- Sustaining and enhancing Indigenous Victims' Services Programs
- Funding an Indigenous Education Board Lead in each school board across Ontario.
- Supporting research on the prevalence of violence against Indigenous women including ways to better track our progress.

### **Development of the Provincial Human Trafficking Strategy**

As part of the Long-Term Strategy, the government committed to developing a strategy to address human trafficking. The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and the Ontario Women's Directorate were directed, in coordination with other ministries, to develop a strategy for the identification, prevention and intervention of human trafficking in Ontario. The Human Trafficking Strategy was informed by a whole-of-government approach that was victim centred, trauma informed and focused on enforcement and prosecutions.

### ***Stakeholder and Expert Consultation Process***

In 2016, the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and the Ontario Women's Directorate coordinated extensive consultations with stakeholders across Ontario. The following consultations took place:

- February 2016 - Expert meetings on human trafficking engaged 50 stakeholders including:
  - Violence Against Women Roundtable, Sexual Assault Centres, women's shelters
  - Indigenous organizations
  - Agencies serving immigrants/migrant workers
  - Research and advocacy groups
  - Police (Durham, Guelph, Peel, York, Toronto Sex Crimes Unit, Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario (CISO), RCMP and OPP)
- Early March 2016 – Expert meetings on human trafficking engaged 80 stakeholders with expertise in areas such as Indigenous issues, violence against women, migrant and refugee issues, at-risk youth and youth services and justice and policing services. Also included staff from the Ministries of the Attorney General, Children and Youth Services, Municipal Affairs and Housing, Community and Social Services, Aboriginal Affairs, Community Safety and Correctional Services, and Ontario Women's Directorate.
- Late March 2016 - Targeted consultation with a focus on children and youth, including boys, was held in partnership with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. Engaged 30 participants representing a cross-section of sectors, including children and youth services, education, social services, law enforcement and violence against women sectors. Also included staff from the Ministries of the Attorney General, Education, Community and Social Services, Children and Youth Services, Community Safety and Correctional Services and Ontario Women's Directorate.

### **Engagement with Indigenous organizations and communities**

In April 2016, the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and the Ontario Women's Directorate partnered with Ontario Native Women's Association to hold two engagement sessions on human trafficking in Thunder Bay. The first session was survivor focused while the second was focused on service providers.



The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and the Ontario Women's Directorate presented the existing framework for action that was informed by input received during the consultation process. Participations at these Ontario Native Women's Association hosted engagement sessions identified the need for:

- Dedicated prevention and awareness initiatives for focused audiences such as children, the hospitality industry, Indigenous communities;
- Direct services for survivors that are culturally relevant;
- Community driven supports to provided survivors with housing, skills development, peer support and long-term therapeutic resources;
- Establishment of a coordinating agency to support work with communities;
- The development of partnerships with police and community services in order to best meet the needs of survivors and foster a wrap-around approach;
- The development of human trafficking specific training for front line workers that is standardized and culturally relevant;
- Accessible resources and supports across the province including rural and remote First Nations communities; and
- A trauma informed approach.

#### **Overview of Initiatives contained in the Provincial Human Trafficking Strategy**

The Provincial Human Trafficking Strategy (the Strategy) was announced in June 2016 and consisted of four key pillars of action. The Pillars are as follows:

1. **Provincial Coordination and Leadership:**
  - Improving coordination, through establishment of a Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office ("PATCO"), to enhance information sharing, cross-sector collaboration, and inter-jurisdictional action. In fall 2016, PATCO was established within the Ministry of Community and Social Services to oversee and coordinate the implementation of initiatives across ministries.
2. **Indigenous-Led Approaches:**
  - Supporting an Indigenous-led process that is designed and led by Indigenous communities to provide culturally-relevant responses.
3. **Justice Sector Supports:**
  - Supporting intelligence gathering, investigations and prosecutions to hold traffickers accountable.
4. **Prevention and Community Supports:**
  - Increasing awareness of the signs and risk factors of human trafficking as well as knowledge of how to intervene safely or where to get help.
  - Supporting proactive, early interventions with at risk groups to mitigate vulnerabilities.
  - Increasing community supports to create a service network accessible to survivors and promote wraparound service models.

See Appendix H for a **List of Initiatives under the Provincial Human Trafficking Strategy**.

### *Progress on the Strategy*

#### *Provincial Coordination*

##### *Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office (PATCO)*

In fall 2016, the Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office (PATCO) was established within the Ministry of Community and Social Services, headed by a Director with lived-experience, to oversee the implementation of the Strategy and Ontario's overall response to human trafficking.

The Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office leads a number of initiatives under the Strategy, in addition to acting as the overall lead for collaboration/coordination of human trafficking policies and programs, including:

- Managing two Director and Assistant Deputy-Minister level interministerial steering committees;
- Overseeing the Lived Experience Roundtable;
- Supporting Federal/Provincial/Territorial work related to human trafficking;
- Coordinating the development of an evaluation framework to measure the success of the Strategy's commitment;
- Spearheading information sharing and collaboration across law enforcement, justice, social services, health, education, and child welfare sectors to improve responses to incidents and to better support survivors;
- Assisting in the implementation of culturally appropriate strategies for Indigenous people impacted by human trafficking, in partnership with Indigenous communities;
- Administering an open and competitive call for proposals related to the Community-Based Supports Fund and the Indigenous-Led Initiatives Fund;
- Supporting the collection of new research and data analysis relating to human trafficking prevalence in Ontario and best practice approaches to service delivery to help survivors heal; and
- Coordinating public education and training opportunities.

##### *Human Trafficking Lived Experience Roundtable*

In the fall of 2017, the Province announced plans to establish a Human Trafficking Lived Experience Roundtable to bolster ongoing efforts to end human trafficking through direct engagement with, and input from, survivors of trafficking. The roundtable would be the first of its kind in Canada and would be led by Jennifer Richardson, Director of the Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office, who has lived experience as a survivor of human trafficking.

The Province sought members for the Roundtable through a nomination process. The members were selected by PATCO. The Roundtable puts survivors at the centre of our strategy and ensures that voices of survivors and those with lived experience are heard. The Roundtable provides input in the following areas:

- System, policy, and program changes that will remove barriers and result in better outcomes for survivors;



- Engagement of other survivors or those with lived experience of human trafficking;
- Ensuring Indigenous perspectives are represented; and,
- How to measure the success of the strategy.

The Roundtable meets quarterly and has provided input on the province's implementation of the strategy and other related initiatives.

#### Prevention and Awareness

##### *Public Education Campaigns*

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services is creating public awareness campaigns for youth to help them understand how young people are targeted and groomed for human trafficking. In addition, the Ministry has also developed a number of public awareness tools to share information about the signs of human trafficking and promote Ontario's human trafficking helpline including:

- Dedicated social media accounts on human trafficking
- A website to help educate the public about the common myths about human trafficking and where people can find services in their community
- A toolkit of resources (including key messages, social media, promotional material, etc.) which is distributed to Indigenous and Violence Against Women agencies, to help raise awareness about human trafficking.

For more information regarding the Indigenous specific campaign, please refer to the Indigenous Specific Approaches section of this document.

##### *Ontario's Confidential Human Trafficking Helpline*

As part of the Strategy, the province launched a new dedicated, confidential human trafficking helpline (1-833-999-9211) that people can call for information or to find services if they or someone they know may be at risk. The Helpline utilizes other provincial resources and support networks.

#### Community Supports

##### *Community Based Supports Fund and the Indigenous-Led Initiatives Fund*

The Strategy established two specialized funds: the Community Based Supports Fund and the Indigenous Led Initiatives Fund. Through the delivery of both funds, survivors of trafficking will be able to access the services they need to recover and rebuild their lives through an enhanced service delivery network.

The Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office hosted discussions with Indigenous service delivery agencies in Thunder Bay, Ottawa and Toronto in early 2017 to discuss the Indigenous Led Initiatives Fund. The Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office also invited all participants to sessions on the Community Based Supports Funds which ran concurrently with the Indigenous specific consultations. The

Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office also encouraged individuals to provide written submissions directly to the Coordination office.

Priorities identified in relation to the Community Based Supports Fund included:

- Enhanced system navigation to help survivors receive services in their community.
- Capacity building through sector training of front-line workers, as well as complimentary prevention, awareness, and education initiatives
- Design of human trafficking survivor-specific programming, including financial management, mental health services, education attainment, nutrition, and culturally competent services
- Increased access to trauma-informed counselling for survivors and victims of human trafficking
- Opportunities for survivors of human trafficking to play a leadership, peer-mentor, or supporting role in funded initiatives
- Strengthened responsiveness of emergency and after-hours support, including 24/7 response and mobile response initiatives
- Availability of long-term approaches to supporting survivors of human trafficking.

Please see the **Community Based Supports Fund Guidelines at Appendix I.**

Priorities identified in relation to the Indigenous-Led Initiatives Fund included:

- Enhance supports to Indigenous women and youth involved in provincially-funded institutions and service systems (e.g. child welfare, youth justice and correctional services), including mental health, addictions and clinical supports
- Increase multi-sector collaboration and planning to support the development of community specific responses to human trafficking
- Engage Indigenous survivors, youth, elders and partners in the design and delivery of training, community outreach and education initiatives
- Improve availability of culturally based counselling supports for Indigenous persons with lived experiences and survivors of human trafficking
- Undertake service system and community planning to address immediate transitional and supportive housing needs for Indigenous human trafficking survivors in urban areas
- Development of province-wide Indigenous youth-focused prevention and safety strategies
- Respond to immediate needs of Indigenous survivors and persons with lived experience through wrap around holistic supports including safety planning, housing and peer supports.

Please see the **Indigenous Led Initiatives Fund Guidelines at Appendix J.**

Both of these funds are administered by the Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office who issued an open, competitive call for proposals to invite eligible organizations to submit applications for funding under each fund in Spring 2017 with funding commencing in fall of 2017. The province provided approximately \$18.6 million



in funding for 44 projects between both funds. The funded initiatives aim to provide access to the right services when they are needed, help prevent at-risk people from being trafficked, meaningfully engage survivors and encourage innovation and community partnerships. See **Appendix K for a List of Community Based Support Fund and Indigenous Led Initiatives Fund Projects.**

For more detail regarding the status of the Indigenous Led Initiatives Fund, please see the Indigenous Specific Approaches section of this document.

#### *Housing Initiatives*

As part of the Strategy, the government announced specific funding to provide housing supports for survivors of human trafficking. This was done via a joint-federal-provincial investment in the Affordable Housing Agreement through the Community Based Supports Fund and the Indigenous Led Initiatives Fund.

For more information regarding the Housing funding available through the Strategy, see the **Community Based Support Fund Guidelines and Indigenous Led Initiative Fund Guidelines at Appendices I and J**, respectively.

#### *Indigenous Specific Approaches*

One of the pillars of the Strategy was an Indigenous specific approach. The initiatives included in this process required a collaborative multi-ministry approach. The initiatives announced in the Strategy included ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities, the creation of an Indigenous Led Initiatives Fund, development of an Indigenous-focused awareness and prevention campaign; and the establishment of Indigenous-specific Human Trafficking Liaisons. The Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office partnered with the Provincial Committee on Human Trafficking to oversee the implementation of these initiatives.

#### *Indigenous Led Initiatives Fund*

The Indigenous Led Initiatives Fund was established to support projects designed for and by Indigenous people that provide Indigenous survivors with access to services, help prevent at-risk people from being trafficked, meaningfully engage people with lived experience, and encourage innovation and community partnerships. For more information regarding the engagement and purpose of the fund, please see the Community Supports section of this document. Also see the **Indigenous Led Initiatives Fund Guidelines at Appendix J.**

The Indigenous Led Initiatives Fund was set up differently from the Community Based Supports Fund. The Indigenous Led Initiatives Fund was set up with two streams of funding:

- Stream One is the Community Planning and Development Stream which is intended to provide capacity building funding in 2017/18 to support applicants



with the planning and development of Indigenous-led projects in 2018/19. Recipients of Stream One that require funding for project delivery and implementation are invited to submit an application as part of a targeted call for proposals in 2018/19.

- Stream Two is the Project Delivery Stream which is intended to support applications with the implementation and delivery of Indigenous-led projects that would begin in 2017/18. Applicants in Stream Two can apply for up to three years of funding (2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20).

The Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office conducted engagement sessions with close to 50 Indigenous organizations and communities on the design and delivery of the Indigenous Led Initiatives Fund. In these sessions, held from January to March 2017, the Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office gathered advice on how the Fund could support Indigenous survivors and persons with lived experience, their families, and communities. Participants in these sessions identified the need for increased supports for community capacity building and encouraged the inclusion of survivors and persons with lived experience in the development of programs, policies, and strategies.

The Guidelines required applicants to be Indigenous organizations and communities (see Eligibility Requirement in **Indigenous Led Initiatives Fund Guidelines at Appendix J**). Applications were due in June 2017 and reviewed that summer. Funding decisions were announced in the fall of 2017. See **Appendix K** for a **List of Community Based Supports Fund and Indigenous Led Initiative Fund Projects**.

The Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office funded 17 Indigenous partners to provide survivor supports such as long-term housing, counselling, cultural programming, addictions treatment, leadership development and other services through Stream One and Stream Two projects. The Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office also provided approximately \$1,136,405 of funding through Stream One to support one-year projects focused on research, engagement and capacity-building. Three Indigenous organizations received funding to support projects through the Community Based Supports Fund.

#### Indigenous Specific Public Awareness Campaign

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services is working directly with an Indigenous marketing agency to develop an Indigenous specific public awareness strategy and materials to resonate with Indigenous audiences that are-known to face an especially high risk of trafficking. The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services has conducted engagement sessions with members of the Provincial Committee on Human Trafficking to solicit feedback on materials created by the Indigenous agency. These materials include a series of posters, social media shareables and postcards that shed light on the signs of youth sex trafficking and promote the provincial helpline. These materials have been distributed to key

stakeholders and are on display in locations throughout the province and have been used to support public awareness sessions led by police and other partners.

#### Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking Liaisons Program

The Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking Liaison position was developed in order to provide for a culturally based gender lens in the development and delivery of culturally appropriate engagement models, resources and services to support Indigenous survivors of human trafficking. Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking Liaisons would be situated within community organizations in order to respond to the trends and the specific service needs of Indigenous communities in fly-in, rural and remote areas of the province. The Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking Liaisons serve as a means to support the recognition of lived experience in leadership roles and reinforce the value of experiential perspectives in the coordination of community specific and culturally appropriate responses to the existing service landscape. See **Appendix L** for the **Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking Liaisons Guidelines**.

The Ontario Native Women's Association leads the implementation of the Liaisons program. Working with a range of Indigenous partners, the Liaisons:

- Provide advice, training and capacity-building to Indigenous and non-Indigenous service providers;
- Support Indigenous communities in responding to human trafficking in a way that best supports the survivors in the community they are serving;
- Provide advice on the design, development and implementation of an Indigenous-Led Initiatives Fund; and,
- Identify trends and targeted populations, as well as gaps in existing services.

#### Engagement Fund and Sessions Held

The Strategy included funding to support ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities and organizations. This funding was provided to Ontario Native Women's Association to conduct six local sessions with survivors and service providers to develop effective responses on trafficking. The Ontario Native Women's Association prepared a final report based on these sessions which included recommendations and findings to support future action against human trafficking. The Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking Liaisons positions supported these sessions which covered the following regions:

- Ottawa Region – Métis Nation of Ontario
- Northern Region – Nishnawbe Aski Nation
- Toronto and GTA – Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto
- Treaty 3 – Fort Frances Tribal Area Health Services
- Golden Horseshoe – Chiefs of Ontario
- Thunder Bay Region – Ontario Native Women's Association



### *Justice Related Initiatives included in the Strategy and Implementation*

#### Provincial Human Trafficking Prosecution Team

Human trafficking cases are complex and require a coordinated effort and specialized expertise to ensure they are prosecuted effectively and with a coordinated provincial approach. Crown resources are limited, in that few Crowns have the expertise and training required to prosecute human trafficking cases. This is why a dedicated Provincial Human Trafficking Prosecution Team was established as part of the Strategy.

The Team is comprised of six Crowns - a Provincial Crown Coordinator and five experienced trial Crowns. The team:

- Undertakes the prosecution of human trafficking cases and provides advice to front-line Crowns across the province;
- Delivers human trafficking specific training to Crowns, police and V/WAP staff; and
- Provides ongoing advice and works collaboratively with police to improve and enhance human trafficking investigations and prosecutions.

The Provincial Human Trafficking Prosecution Team, led by the Provincial Crown Coordinator, has been in place as of January 2017. The team is responsible for prosecuting human trafficking cases as well as developing enhanced training for front-line Crowns, police and Victim/Witness Assistance Program staff. Currently the team is organized with two Crowns in each of the following jurisdictions: Toronto, Peel Region and York Region. Each of these jurisdictions have a high number of human trafficking cases and a dedicated police human trafficking unit.

Each team member has carriage of a significant number of the human trafficking cases in their jurisdiction. Also, given that human traffickers often move victims around, the team is involved in providing police across the province with advice and prosecuting multi-jurisdictional cases, including in St. Catharines, Orangeville, Durham and Peterborough.

The team has developed a one-week training program for Human Trafficking Designated Crowns. Two training sessions were held in 2017, which resulted in more than half of the Crown Offices in the province having at least one Human Trafficking Designated Crown. A further session was held in August 2018, which resulted in almost all of Ontario's Crown Offices having at least one Human Trafficking Designated Crown.

#### Expansion of Victim/Witness Assistance Program

The Victim/Witness Assistance Program is delivered by Ministry of the Attorney General employees in 62 locations across the province. Victim/Witness Services Workers support victims and witnesses throughout the criminal court process by providing information about victims' rights, the criminal justice process, their specific case, needs assessments, and referrals to other services in the community.



Three new Victim/Witness Services Workers were hired and are designated as human trafficking experts within the Victim/Witness Assistance Program and mentor, train, and provide advice to program staff in all jurisdictions. These new dedicated V/WAP workers are located in Newmarket, Brampton and Toronto. These new workers share their experience with other V/WAP staff in the province and work with Crowns to ensure that human trafficking victims receive information, assistance and support, in order to improve their understanding of, and participation in, the criminal court process.

In 2017/18, V/WAP assisted on 197 human trafficking cases, which involved approximately 560 victims and witnesses. V/WAP classification of human trafficking cases may include cases in which the accused person is charged under the human trafficking provisions of the Criminal Code and/or cases where the survivor has experienced human trafficking but involve other charges under the Criminal Code.

V/WAP collaborates with Indigenous organizations that support victims of crime. Some examples include:

- Partnering with Indigenous organizations to ensure the needs of survivors of human trafficking are met. Coordination and information sharing between V/WAP and the Native Women's Centre in Toronto to provide court updates, arrange meals, accommodations, and safe transportation to court;
- Informing clients of Indigenous victim's services available from organizations such as the Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services' Victim Witness Liaison Program and Ganohkwásra Family Assault Support Services and providing a referral with the victim's consent;
- Sitting on Committees that coordinate services for victims such as the Kenora Coalition to End Human Trafficking; and
- Actively participating in the Indigenous Persons Courts in jurisdictions such as Brantford, Cayuga, and St. Catherine's/Niagara.

#### Enhancements to Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario

The Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario Program provides crisis intervention services to victims of crime and tragic circumstances after an incident 24 hours a day, seven days a week at the request of the police and/or service providers.

In addition to on-site crisis intervention, other services offered through the Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario Program include:

- Safety planning for all eligible victims of crime
- Referrals to appropriate community supports and services
- Needs assessments and customized service plans
- Enhanced support for vulnerable victims

As a result of the Strategy, new funding was provided to help VCAO service provide better support to victims of human trafficking. This funding has been used to:

- Hire additional staff and/or support staff hours;
- Provide for training of staff and volunteers;

- Provide tools to support the provision of enhanced services; and
- Support community coordination activities.

#### Enhanced benefits under the Victim Quick Response Program

The Victim Quick Response Program provides timely financial assistance to eligible individuals who have been victimized by violent crime (homicide, attempted murder, serious physical assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault and hate crime) and/or their family members. Victims can access this program through a Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario service provider. Criminal charges do not need to be laid in order for a victim to access this program.

As a result of the Strategy, the VQRP benefits available to victims was expanded to better serve victims of human trafficking. Over a four-year period, commencing in 2016, funding will support to new benefits for human trafficking victims including dental services, storage locker rental, tattoo removal, basic necessities, replacement of government documents and recovery in a trauma-informed facility. See **Appendix M** for the **Victim Quick Response Program Standards for Victim of Human Trafficking**.

Financial assistance for witnesses and immediate family members of human trafficking victims is also available to help cover: practical assistance expenses; safety expenses; travel and related expenses; and counselling and related transportation expenses.

Indigenous applicants are eligible to receive services from Indigenous Healers or Elders where these services are not covered through federal government funding. Healers or Elders should be identified in collaboration with local Indigenous service providers as well as local Indigenous partners.

The Program will pay up to a maximum of \$2,550 for counselling services and associated travel expenses for a Healer or Elder to travel to a fly-in community in northern Ontario to provide counselling services. This amount includes the purchase of sacred medicines for Elders, service expenses (i.e. honorarium), transportation expenses, meals, and accommodation. This amount does not include costs for the Healer's or Elder's travel time.



Eligible Expenses for Human Trafficking Victims:

Expense Category	Expense Type	Maximum
Safety	Window, lock, door, dead bolts, bars, peepholes, window contact alarms, window/door stops/guards	\$ 2025 (combined)
	Cellular phone, activation, cellular minutes, SIM card, charging cables	\$ 125
Practical Assistance	Basic necessities	\$ 1,000
	Meals and groceries	\$ 40/ day (max \$400)
	Accommodation*	\$ 120/ day (max \$840)
	Replacement of government documents	\$ 300
	Eye glasses and exams	\$ 300
	Aids for victims with disabilities	\$ 1,000
	Interpretation services	\$ 750
	Storage locker	\$ 600
Personal	Dental	\$ 1,000
	Tattoo removal	\$ 1,000
Travel and Related	Transportation to safe accommodation or for medical appointments, treatments/services	\$ 1,500
	Care for dependents and pets	\$ 200
Restoration	Crime-scene cleanup	\$ 1,500
	Graffiti removal	\$ 400
Counselling	Counselling	\$ 2,000
	Transportation associated with counselling	\$ 500
	Traditional Indigenous Health Services	\$ 3,550
Residential Treatment	Treatment at recovery facility	\$ 10,000



## Regulations

### *Civil Remedies Grants Program to Community Agencies*

The *Civil Remedies Act, 2001* provides for the civil forfeiture of property that is a proceed or an instrument of unlawful activity. It is intended to help suppress and discourage unlawful activity by undermining the ability to profit from the unlawful activity or to use profits to finance new unlawful activity.

The *Anti-Human Trafficking Act, 2017* amended the *Civil Remedies Act, 2001* regulation to allow the Ministry of the Attorney General to pay grants to community organizations involved in human trafficking initiatives. The Civil Remedies Community Organizations Human Trafficking Grant Program was established in 2017.

### *Allowing victims of hate crimes to sue convicted offenders for emotional distress*

Under the Victims' Bill of Rights, a person convicted of certain crimes (as set out in a regulation) can be sued for by a victim of the crime for emotional distress, and bodily harm resulting from the distress. In February 2016, the government updated the list of crimes to include human trafficking so that human trafficking victims can bring these lawsuits against those convicted of this crime. The regulation can be found here:

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/960456>

## Legislation

### *Bill 158, Saving The Girl Next Door Act*

On February 16, 2016, MPP Laurie Scott introduced a Private Member's Bill 158, *Saving the Girl Next Door Act, 2016*, in the Ontario Legislature. The bill passed second reading on February 18, 2016 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy. In May 2017, the Province passed the *Anti-Human Trafficking Act, 2017*, which adopted and built upon many elements of the Private Members' Bill, namely: designated a Human Trafficking Awareness Day, allowed for a restraining order to be obtained against human traffickers, and created a human trafficking tort.

### *Bill 96, Anti-Human Trafficking Act, 2017*

The *Anti-Human Trafficking Act, 2017* was enacted on May 30, 2017 and consists of two statutes:

- The Human Trafficking Awareness Day Act, 2017 which proclaims February 22 of each year as Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- The Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking Act, 2017 ("PRHTA") which makes it easier for survivors to sue their traffickers for compensation in civil court and allows those affected by human trafficking or those who have been trafficked, or are at-risk of being trafficked, to apply for a restraining order to protect themselves from traffickers.

*Human Trafficking Awareness Day, 2017*

Schedule 1 of the *Anti-Human Trafficking Act, 2017* consists of the *Human Trafficking Awareness Day Act, 2017*. The Act proclaims February 22 in each year as Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

On February 22, 2007, the House of Commons of Canada passed a motion condemning the trafficking of women and children across international borders for the purposes of sexual exploitation. Proclaiming February 22 as Human Trafficking Awareness Day is intended to bring awareness to the problem of human trafficking.

*Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking Act, 2017*

Schedule 2 of the Act consists of the *Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking Act, 2017*. The Act is composed of four Parts.

Part I sets out a definition of human trafficking for the purposes of the Act. The definition is based on human trafficking offences set out in the Criminal Code of Canada.

Part II establishes a process for obtaining restraining orders in the human trafficking context.

To obtain an order, section 3 requires an applicant to make an application to the Ontario Court of Justice. An applicant may be a victim or potential victim of human trafficking, a person with lawful custody of a victim who is a child, or any person set out in the regulations. An applicant may act through an agent.

Section 4 sets out the powers of the court on an application for a restraining order. Section 5 requires that the court specify an expiry date for the restraining order. Section 6 provides that an application for a restraining order may be made without notice in specified circumstances. Section 7 sets out a process for setting aside or varying a restraining order if there has been a material change in circumstances.

Sections 8 to 10 deal with procedural matters. Section 10 establishes where the court is required to, and where it may, make an order directing that identifying information respecting a party or witness shall not be published, broadcast or transmitted. Section 11 provides that orders of the Ontario Court of Justice under the Part may be appealed to the Superior Court of Justice.

Sections 12 and 13 address the interaction between the Act and the *Courts of Justice Act* and rules of court made under that Act. Under section 14, court fees are not payable with respect to applications or appeals under the Part unless the regulations provide otherwise. Section 15 gives regulation-making authority to the minister responsible for the administration of the Act, including authority to make regulations respecting procedures on applications and appeals under the Part.



Part III establishes a tort of human trafficking. A civil action may be brought by a victim of human trafficking against any person who engaged in the human trafficking, and no proof of damage is required. Section 17 sets out powers of the court and specific considerations respecting damages and other compensation in such an action.

Part IV provides that Parts I and III come into force on the day the Bill receives Royal Assent, and that Part II comes into force on proclamation.

#### Free Legal Support for Human Trafficking Survivors

The Free Legal Support for Human Trafficking Survivors Pilot Program was launched on May 1, 2018. The Program provides human trafficking victims/ potential victims with free confidential legal advice and assistance with completing a restraining order application and representation in court on the application. Parents and guardians of a child survivor/child at risk of being trafficked are also eligible. See **Appendix N** for a **Guide on Anti-Human Trafficking Restraining Orders**.

Survivors of all ages can access this service and the trafficking does not need to have happened in Ontario to be eligible. This program is available to all eligible women, men, trans and gender-diverse people in Ontario. This restraining order only applies to a trafficker who resides in Ontario. Survivors or those at-risk of being trafficked do not need to have a criminal case in progress in order to obtain a restraining order against their trafficker.

The program is available province wide by phone or in person and in English or French. Services can be accessed through Ontario's dedicated confidential Human trafficking Helpline (1-833-999-9211). The applicable forms are available at the Ontario Court of Justice website. Please see **Appendix O** for the **Restraining Order Application Form**; **Appendix P** for the **Restraining Order Affidavit Form**; and **Appendix Q** for the **Restraining Order Form**.

Services are provided by a specialized roster of lawyers from the Office of the Children's Lawyer's in-house counsel and panel lawyers. The pilot will be evaluated after one year. Please see the **Human Trafficking Legal Support Fact Sheet – English** at **Appendix R**.

#### *Training and Education*

##### Human Trafficking Justice Summit and VWAP Training

In February 2017, the Provincial Human Trafficking Prosecution Team of the Ministry of the Attorney General hosted its first Human Trafficking Summit for justice sector partners, which served as an opportunity to learn about the needs of victims, law enforcement practices, prosecution models and best practices, and a trauma-informed approach to prosecutions. It also included an Indigenous Realities panel coordinated by the Indigenous Justice Division of the Ministry of the Attorney General.



The Human Trafficking Prosecution Team has developed and continues to deliver human trafficking specific training to Crowns, police and V/WAP staff across the province, including:

- A one-week training program for Human Trafficking Designated Crowns in local offices across the province to help them prosecute human trafficking cases. This training program was delivered twice in 2017 and once in 2018, resulting in almost all of the 54 Crown Attorneys Offices having at least one Human Trafficking Designated Crown specially trained to prosecute Human Trafficking cases. Larger Crown Offices have multiple HT Designated Crowns.
- Crown training focused on human trafficking prosecutions has also been provided at Annual Crown Conferences and during Crown Summer School programs.

Training provided by the Coordination Office

The Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office's role includes identifying anti-human trafficking training needs and supporting the implementation of effective training across Ontario.

The Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office piloted training in the Spring of 2018 that focused on working with sexually exploited/trafficked children and youth. It followed the existing Manitoba training model that has been delivered across Canada and that is widely recognized as a solid foundational training to protect children and youth.

The training pilot provided some key service sector training gaps and insights about what changes are needed, who should be the primary focus groups for training, and sectors where training is most critically needed. Participants were from the diverse sectors, including: child welfare, residential/shelter services, counselling/trauma services, law enforcement, victim services, and government. The representation across multiple sectors was purposeful, as it allowed for cross-sectoral knowledge-sharing, and the building of relationships and informal networks.

Topics addressed in the training included: the language and culture of the sex trade, indicators of sexual exploitation and human trafficking, and Indigenous-specific training that included discussion of linkages between colonization, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and intergenerational trauma.

Key Statistics from the Training Pilot Include:

- At the start of the first session, 45.6 % of participants felt they had a fair to poor understanding of supporting sexually exploited children and HT.
- At the end of the first session of training 100% of participants felt that they had a good to excellent understanding and knowledge of HT.
- Findings from the post-training online survey also indicate that the training was extremely well received. Some highlights include:

- After the training, 63% of child welfare workers were totally confident in working with sexually exploited/trafficked children and youth
- After the training, 100% of law enforcement were somewhat/totally confident supporting sexually exploited/trafficked children.
- After training, 100% of counsellors and trauma workers were somewhat/totally confident in working with sexually exploited/trafficked children.

#### Online Training to Address Human Trafficking (for Service Providers)

In April 2013, the Ministry entered an agreement with Multilingual Interpreter Services (MCIS) to develop online training and related resources for service providers to enable them to better support victims of human trafficking in Ontario.

In developing the training, MCIS engaged with and sought input from subject matter experts and front-line service providers.

On January 30, 2014, MCIS launched the online training for service providers across Ontario. The online training can be accessed at <http://helpingtraffickedpersons.org/> or <http://aiderlesvictimesdelatraitdepersonnes.org/>.

The training includes the following learning components:

- An overview of human trafficking in Canada and Ontario;
- Information on the dynamics of human trafficking;
- Human trafficking indicators;
- Service needs of trafficked persons;
- Unique needs of Indigenous and Francophone clients; and
- Information on first response, medium and long- term support.

In 2016, the training was modified to create customized learning for targeted service providers such as: legal and paralegal professionals; law enforcement; healthcare professionals; and professionals working with children in the education sector and/or Children's Aid Societies.



### *Related Indigenous specific Human Trafficking Victim Services*

The Ministry has supported services and programs that target human trafficking victims outside of the Strategy. Many of these programs are funded through the Ministry of the Attorney General – Indigenous Justice Division and are not VCAO programs.

#### Indigenous Specific Victim Services

The Ministry of the Attorney General provides funding to Indigenous organizations and communities to provide Indigenous specific victim services through transfer-payment agreements. These programs are not considered Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario organizations referred to in Section A of this document. The services provided are similar in nature and the Indigenous specific victim services organizations may serve as a referral agency to other victim supports. See **Appendix S** for a **List of Indigenous Specific Victim Services** funded by the Ministry of the Attorney General.

#### Indigenous Specific Human Trafficking Victim Services in Northeastern Ontario

The Ministry of the Attorney General – Indigenous Justice Division supports two community-based victim service organizations in northeastern Ontario. The Mushkegowuk Victim Program and victim services offered by Matawa Tribal Council provide specific support to human trafficking survivors.

In addition to supporting survivors, these organizations provide training and public education sessions on human trafficking which have received positive feedback by community members. Matawa Tribal Council held a three day training session in 2017 which involved human trafficking and victim services experts from Thunder Bay. The session was attended by 21 frontline community workers from 9 First Nations. Public education and presentation materials were designed in collaboration with attendees that were later distributed to communities.

Mushkegowuk Victim Services provided workshops in each of the 6 communities along the James Bay coast. Frontline workers were invited from each community. Mushkegowuk Victim Services also engaged with local high schools in the area to design public awareness materials to educate the community. Mushkegowuk Victim Services partnered with local VQRP providers in Moose Factory and Moosonee to deliver human trafficking awareness workshops in the region.

#### Independent Legal Advice for Indigenous Families Victimized by Sexual Violence Pilot Program

In 2016, a free legal advice program for victims of sexual assault was established. As part of the on-going evaluation of this pilot program, the need for a culturally appropriate approach to services for Indigenous families was identified. As a result, a culturally appropriate program was developed to provide information services and supports to family members of missing or murdered Indigenous women and girls, including referrals.

The program provides culturally appropriate, trauma-informed and holistic services, including appropriate referrals, for Indigenous victims and/or family members affected by sexual violence who wish to obtain professional legal advice regarding the case of their loved one. Independent Legal Advice is available to a maximum of 10 hours per individual, or 20 hours per family of the same victim.

Exhibit: *National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*

Location/Phase: Parts 2/3 St. John's

Witness: Juanita Dobson

Submitted by: Julian Roy

Add'l info: P02-03 P040101

Date: OCT 15 2018

Initials

I/D

Entered

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