

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

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RCMP National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking



Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Canada



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I. Executive Summary

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), human trafficking is considered to be one of the fastest growing sectors of organized crime. As an offence, human trafficking violates the fundamental human rights of victims by preying on their vulnerabilities. The impact of human trafficking extends beyond victimization, contributing directly to significant economic, legal, political and environmental impacts on society in general. Quantification of the extent to which human trafficking is occurring remains a significant challenge. In 2007, the International Labour Organization estimated that 2.5 million people are in forced labour (including sexual exploitation) at any given time as a result of trafficking. In Canada, as of May 2012, 42 accused were convicted of offences in human trafficking cases. Approximately 57 cases were before the courts where human trafficking specific charges were laid.

Human trafficking is often characterized as a “low risk/high reward activity” because of the fact that the crime is clandestine and challenging to investigate. Human beings function as expendable resources, a commodity that can be reused and resold to maximize profit.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) recognizes the importance of combating human trafficking and trafficking related offences.

The RCMP National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking outlines current and future efforts in combating this crime. The RCMP's goal is to reduce the prevalence of, and harms caused by, human trafficking in Canada and abroad. In order to accomplish this goal, the RCMP is committed to achieving the following four strategic objectives:

- Enhance prevention strategies in Canada;
- Strengthen the assistance and protection of human trafficking victims in Canada;
- Improve the identification, disruption and prosecution of human trafficking in Canada; and
- Enhance partnerships to combat human trafficking in Canada and abroad.

These strategic objectives guide the RCMP towards effectively addressing the various challenges currently impacting the prosecution, prevention, protection, and partnerships associated with human trafficking.

The RCMP will also continue to support the Government of Canada's National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking, by advancing the RCMP's national strategy to combat human trafficking.



II. Methodology

The priorities identified in this national strategy were derived from consultations with several law enforcement, government and non-governmental organizations which resulted in more than 100 recommendations. Consultation participants also provided their views on the current landscape, partnerships, challenges and weaknesses. In addition, research, reports and threat assessments in relation to human trafficking were reviewed. All of the above served as the foundation upon which the strategy was developed.

a) National Human Trafficking Conference

In March 2011, the RCMP Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre, in partnership with the Ottawa Police Service and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, hosted a two and a half day national conference on human trafficking. This national human trafficking conference, the first of its kind since the creation of human trafficking legislation in 2005, brought together approximately 300 participants from law enforcement organizations, the government and non-governmental sectors, victim services and prosecutors.

The objectives of this national conference were to:

- Move forward at the community level in preventing human trafficking, helping victims and prosecuting traffickers;
- Improve partnerships;
- Identify solutions to challenges identified by law enforcement organizations, victim services and non-governmental organizations;
- Share best practices; and
- Educate on emerging trends.

The information derived from this conference influenced the development of a series of recommendations, which were organized around the four anti-trafficking principles: prevention, prosecution, protection and partnership. The recommendations were as follows:

Prevention: Continue to raise awareness among the general public, decision makers and youth, while addressing causes of human trafficking such as the prevalence of prostitution/hypersexualization.

Prosecution: Maintain respect for the mandates/expertise of non-governmental organizations, as well as law enforcement (federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal) and government agencies.

Protection: Address the current lack of resources available to victims of human trafficking in relation to security, housing and basic needs.

Partnership: Address the need for greater knowledge of individual roles and increased coordination efforts within the regions. Ensure that all stakeholders are able to carry out their roles, are respected within their individual mandates, and are supported by mechanisms to ensure the coordination of efforts while maximizing the integration of existing resources.

As a way forward, it was recommended that smaller regional workshops that draw together law enforcement, victim services, non-governmental organizations and government organizations, would allow for more participatory group discussions focusing on outcomes and how to achieve them within their respective regions.

b) Further consultations

A series of consultations were conducted between April 2011 and July 2011 with more than 90 representatives from various international, federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal governments and non-governmental organizations (Appendix A provides a complete list of individuals who participated in the consultation process).

The three objectives of the consultations were:

- 1 To gain a better understanding of the current human trafficking environment, both within Canada and on an international level;
- 2 To identify existing and potential partnership opportunities, with a focus on highlighting the various successes and recognizing possible shortcomings in terms of these partnerships; and
- 3 To solicit recommendations from key stakeholders with respect to the RCMP's contribution to combating human trafficking, on both the domestic and international stages.

III. Introduction

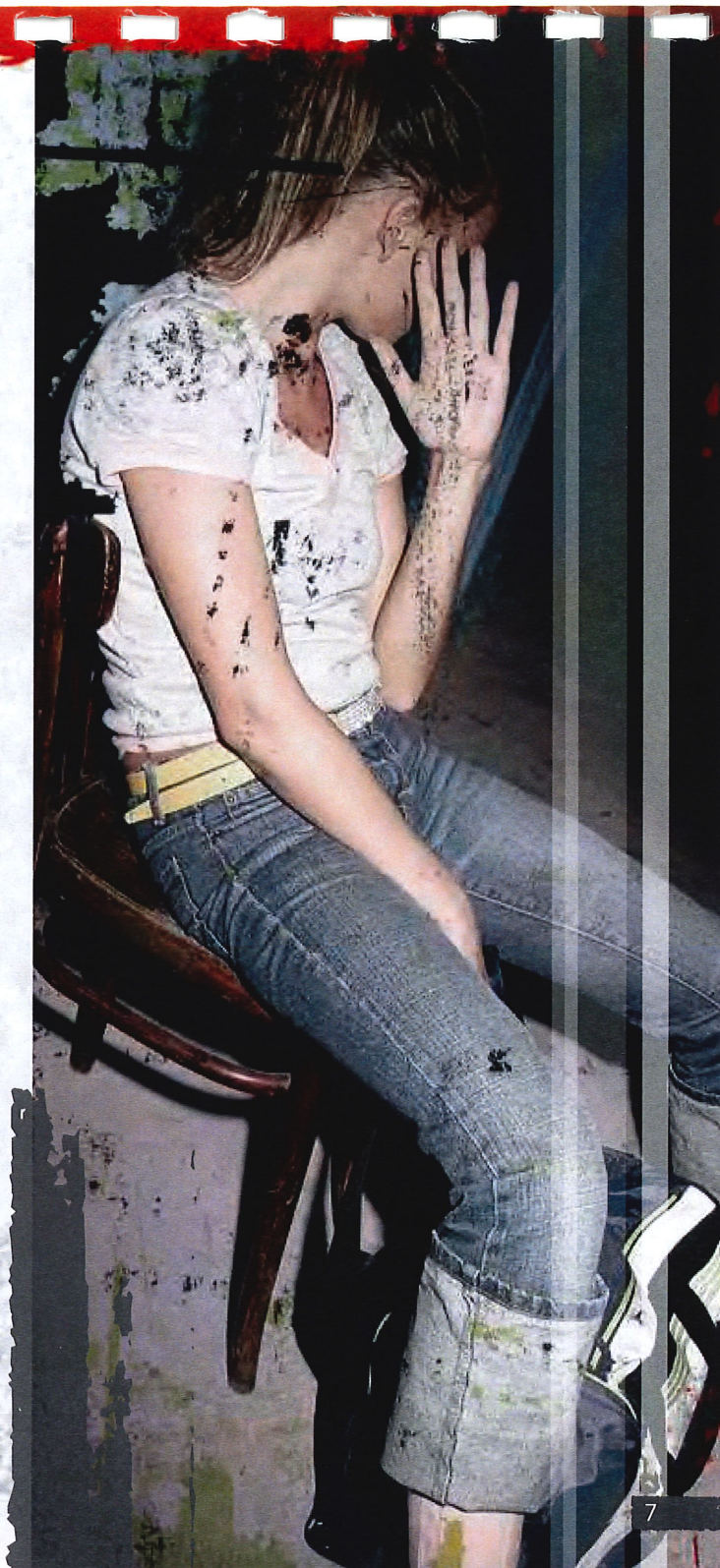
Similar to other commodity based crimes (the trafficking of drugs and the illegal arms trade), the trafficking of persons has become a global concern. At any given time, a country can be a source, destination, transit country or all three. Factors that contribute to human trafficking, and often function to serve as initial motivation, are a victim's desire to seek out better opportunities as a result of political, social and/or economic unrest.¹

Human trafficking is a multi-dimensional phenomenon considered to be one of the most profitable crimes worldwide; organized crime syndicates and individual opportunists benefit from trafficking people for sexual exploitation and forced labour. The clandestine nature of human trafficking has made it hard to quantify. In Canada, victims of human trafficking have been Canadian citizens, permanent residents and foreign nationals.

Project Seclusion, a human trafficking threat assessment conducted by the RCMP in March 2010, aimed to provide a national overview of human trafficking activities in an effort to identify transnational associations, source countries, the issues and challenges faced by law enforcement, as well as the extent of organized crime involvement.² Serving as a baseline for intelligence, Project Seclusion concluded that human trafficking is an emerging criminal issue in Canada that can be difficult to investigate and prosecute. Convincing victims of human trafficking to cooperate with the police can be difficult, a factor that has made it challenging for Canadian authorities to collect accurate information and statistics on this crime.

¹ Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Project SECLUSION: Human Trafficking in Canada, March 2010, p.4.

² Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Project SECLUSION: Human Trafficking in Canada, March 2010, p.1.





i United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children

In 2000, a broad international framework to address trafficking in persons was introduced in Palermo, Italy. The United Nations *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (Trafficking Protocol)* articulates the most widely accepted international framework for addressing human trafficking and calls upon States Parties to take steps to prevent trafficking, protect its victims and prosecute the offenders. The *Trafficking Protocol* is the only globally binding international instrument that contains an agreed upon definition of trafficking in persons.

The Protocol further provides a non-exhaustive list of examples of what constitutes exploitation: "*exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude, or the removal of organs...The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth (above) shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth (above) have been used.*"³

ii Defining Human Trafficking in Canada

Canada's international obligations inform the development of domestic laws, programs and policies in this area. With respect to Canada's obligation to make trafficking in persons a criminal offence, there are two relevant federal statutes, the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* and the *Criminal Code* (Appendix B).

³ <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/protocoltraffic.htm>

A distinction between international and domestic human trafficking is made by the RCMP for law enforcement purposes in order to determine the application of the appropriate piece of legislation as well as determine the jurisdictions based on law enforcement mandates. The RCMP defines these two concepts as follows:

International Human Trafficking: involves someone, who in the process of being trafficked crosses an international border, regardless of the victim's immigration status. The legality or illegality of border crossing in this case is irrelevant.

Domestic Human Trafficking: is the phenomenon in which all stages of trafficking occur within Canada regardless of the victim's legal status. Vulnerable, economically challenged and socially dislocated sectors of the Canadian population represent a potential pool of domestic trafficking victims.⁴

International human trafficking cases can be prosecuted under both the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* and the *Criminal Code*, whereas domestic human trafficking cases can only be prosecuted under the *Criminal Code*. In international human trafficking cases prosecuted under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, a victim must be brought into Canada; in cases prosecuted under the *Criminal Code*, there is no requirement to transport a victim across an international border.

It should be noted that both RCMP and municipal or provincial police partnerships are crucial to effectively combating this crime. In cases involving foreign nationals, Canada Border Services Agency and Citizenship and Immigration Canada are important partners in human trafficking investigations.

This Strategy focuses on trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and trafficking for the purpose of forced labour. While removal of organs or tissues is a component of the human trafficking legislation, it has not been included in this strategy given the lack of intelligence to support its occurrence in Canada.

In addition to understanding the various components of human trafficking, it is essential to differentiate between human smuggling and human trafficking, as they are often misinterpreted.

Human smuggling is a form of illegal migration involving the organized transport of persons across an international border, usually in exchange for a sum of money, and sometimes involving dangerous conditions. The relationship between the smuggler and the person being smuggled is a voluntary business transaction, which usually ends when the client reaches the intended destination. The financial component of a human smuggling transaction may be a one time fee paid to the smuggler before arrival or instalment payments after arrival.

Human trafficking involves the exploitation of people through force, coercion, threat, fraud or deception and may include acts generally defined as human rights abuses. Victims may be forced into labour, prostitution or some other form of servitude. The relationship between the trafficker and victim does not end upon arrival at destination, as the victim may be subjected to debt bondage (forced labour or sexual exploitation to pay off a debt). Unlike human smuggling, human trafficking occurs both across international borders and within national boundaries. The potential for human smuggling to evolve into human trafficking certainly exists and could occur when migrants who originally agreed to be smuggled into a country continue to be exploited once they reach their destination.⁵

⁴ Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Project SECLUSION: Human Trafficking in Canada, March 2010, p.8.

⁵ *Idem*.

IV. Strategy

The purpose of this strategy is to ***reduce the prevalence of and harms caused by human trafficking in Canada and abroad***. Strategy actions will reduce the threat and impact of serious and organized crime by identifying and disrupting the involvement of organized crime groups in human trafficking, thereby functioning as an effective response to potential threats to the security of Canada. Targeted awareness efforts strive to reduce the potential for victimization within vulnerable populations, which, in Canada, includes the youth and Aboriginal population while crime reduction efforts contribute to ensuring the integrity of the Canadian economy. In order to accomplish the strategy's goal, the following strategic objectives, which leverage internal and external partnerships and support the crime prevention principles of law enforcement, must be pursued:

- a) Enhance prevention strategies in Canada;
- b) Strengthen the assistance and protection of human trafficking victims in Canada;
- c) Improve the identification, disruption and prosecution of human trafficking in Canada; and
- d) Enhance partnerships to combat human trafficking in Canada and abroad.

The RCMP National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking is aligned with Canada's National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking⁶; the overall goals of the RCMP to preserve the peace, uphold the law and provide quality service in partnership with our communities; and the five national strategic priorities of the RCMP:

- Serious and Organized Crime – reduce the threat and impact of serious and organized crime;
- National Security – effectively respond to threats to the security of Canada;
- Youth – reduce youth involvement in crime as victims and offenders;
- Economic Integrity – contribute to Canada's economic integrity through crime reduction; and
- Aboriginal Communities – contribute to safer and healthier Aboriginal communities.

In addition to implementing initiatives and measures identified to achieve the goal of this strategy, it is important to recognize that it is a living document that should be revisited and modified on an ongoing basis to reflect an ever evolving environment while highlighting successes and addressing new challenges. Adopting this philosophy aligns with the RCMP's emphasis on and commitment to continuous improvement. The RCMP is also committed to pursuing efforts outside of operational enforcement activities including educational and social objectives that will reduce human trafficking activities.



⁶ <http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/le/cmbt-trffkng-eng.aspx>

V. Overview of Human Trafficking in Canada

Global inequalities resulting from natural disasters, political, religious or cultural unrest, economic instability and social discrimination give rise to the desire to seek out better opportunities in Canada, and thereby increase an individual's vulnerability to victimization through human trafficking.

To gain a better understanding of human trafficking from a Canadian context, the RCMP undertook an analysis of the human trafficking investigations/intelligence occurring between 2005 and 2009. Canada was identified predominantly as a destination country for foreign nationals as well as a country in which domestic trafficking prevails. The threat assessment examined the issue of human trafficking from two different viewpoints: sexual exploitation and forced labour. The following is an overview of these viewpoints.

Sexual Exploitation: The majority of cases identified to date suggest that trafficking for sexual exploitation is more prevalent in Canada than other forms of human trafficking. In these cases, all victims have been found to be females, Canadian and foreign nationals, each type with unique qualities but similar profiles.

In examining human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, the majority of investigations analysed involved prostitution related charges, with or without section 279.01 charges under the *Criminal Code*. While street prostitution remains the most overt form of this crime, pressure from law enforcement has driven organized prostitution to less obvious places (e.g. exotic dance clubs, massage parlours). With the exception of brothels, these less obvious places often operate as legitimate

businesses which contribute to significant challenges in the identification and disruption of illegal activities from a policing perspective.

At this time, in Canada, foreign national victims of sexual exploitation tend to come from Eastern Europe and Asia and range in age from 20 to 46 years. These victims are often found in escort agencies, massage parlours and exotic dance clubs, with the majority of Asian victims found in bawdy houses and massage parlours. Victims are recruited through ads on the Internet, local newspapers and through friends, or acquaintances. Traffickers prey on vulnerable individuals who are often facing financial and/or social challenges. Individuals operating in source countries offer inflated earnings to entice the vulnerable and serve as facilitators for the recruiting and transporting components of trafficking. Traffickers in Canada often have ethnic associations in source countries and leverage these ties to facilitate the offence. Victims travel to Canada using fraudulent or altered passports from visa exempt countries, and in some cases on legal visitor or student visas, working either until the visa expires and returning to their country or overstaying their visa. Exploitation and control over foreign national victims is prevalent, by way of deception and the withholding of identification and travel documents.

While there are several similarities between foreign national and Canadian victims of human trafficking forced into sexual exploitation, differences exist as well. For the most part, Canadian victims tend to be recruited from other provinces/territories across Canada often through acquaintances or the Internet. They are often recruited into prostitution after a pre-existing relationship with an acquaintance has been established, with some victims finding themselves abducted or forcibly confined. Ranging in age from 14 to 34 years old, some of these victims were either already involved in prostitution or had initially consented to becoming involved and were then

prevented from leaving. Victims tend to be from the socially and economically vulnerable sections of society, including at risk and runaway youth. Victims with previous involvement in prostitution are recruited by pimps and trafficked in various environments, including street prostitution, exotic dance clubs and escort agencies. Underage victims are provided with fake identification. The forms of exploitation and control of Canadian victims mirror those of foreign national victims, and while movement may not be on an international scope, Canadian victims are often displaced from their home community in order to isolate them from family and other support systems. Traffickers manipulate their victims into believing that they are in exclusive relationships in order to invoke a sense of loyalty and obedience, often withholding their identification (e.g. social insurance numbers, bank cards and driver's licenses).

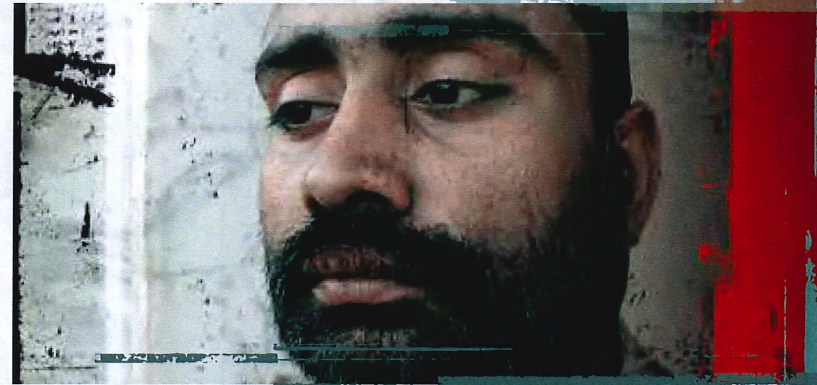
Forced Labour: Since the introduction of human trafficking legislation in Canada, several allegations of forced labour have been brought forward. To date, human trafficking for forced labour cases in Canada have involved both female and male victims. Investigations and intelligence have also identified migrant workers as a vulnerable group for forced labour. While not all cases of labour abuse will amount to trafficking in persons, intelligence with respect to claims of labour exploitation have centred on the treatment of migrant workers and the fraudulent use of various programs such as the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, a program that helps employers find temporary workers to come to Canada to work in jobs when Canadians are unavailable for those jobs. Migrant workers in labour-related human trafficking investigations came from various countries including the Philippines, India, Poland, China, Ethiopia, Mexico, and Hungary and were often employed in the food processing,

Domestic Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation Case

Peel Regional Police sealed the first Canadian human trafficking conviction in May 2008 after laying charges in 2007 against Imani NAKPANGI, an individual who recruited and lured two underage females into prostitution. The accused solicited clients with erotic advertisements and pictures of the victims published on Internet websites, transported the victims to hotels to engage in sex acts and took control of all earnings, amounting to an estimated \$400,000 over a two-year period for one victim and a two-month period for the other. NAKPANGI manipulated the victims to believe they were in a romantic relationship with him and then used threats, intimidation and physical violence to control them. When one victim wanted to quit, NAKPANGI imposed a \$100,000 exit fee on her. NAKPANGI received a three year sentence for human trafficking and two years for living off the avails of juvenile prostitution to be served consecutively.

technology, construction and service industries. In addition to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, Canada also brings in caregivers under the Live-in Caregiver Program to work in domestic residences, which gives rise to the potential for forced labour through falsely presented employment opportunities. People are also illegally brought into Canada by families and forced to work as domestic caregivers in the families' residences. With some degree of deception involved in the process of organizing workers to come to Canada, organized crime groups, individuals or family units often take advantage of foreign workers for personal gain. Intelligence to date suggests that migrant workers may be trafficked for forced labour by the employer but also by a third party, possibly without an employer's knowledge. For example, unscrupulous third party agencies and leasing companies may be hired by Canadian companies to supply workers,

but the individuals they provide may be exploited by the third party agency. Unregulated third party placement agencies and leasing companies are hired by Canadian companies to supply workers. In order to fulfil these requirements, the agencies manipulate the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and exploit the workers.



Human Trafficking Forced Labour Case

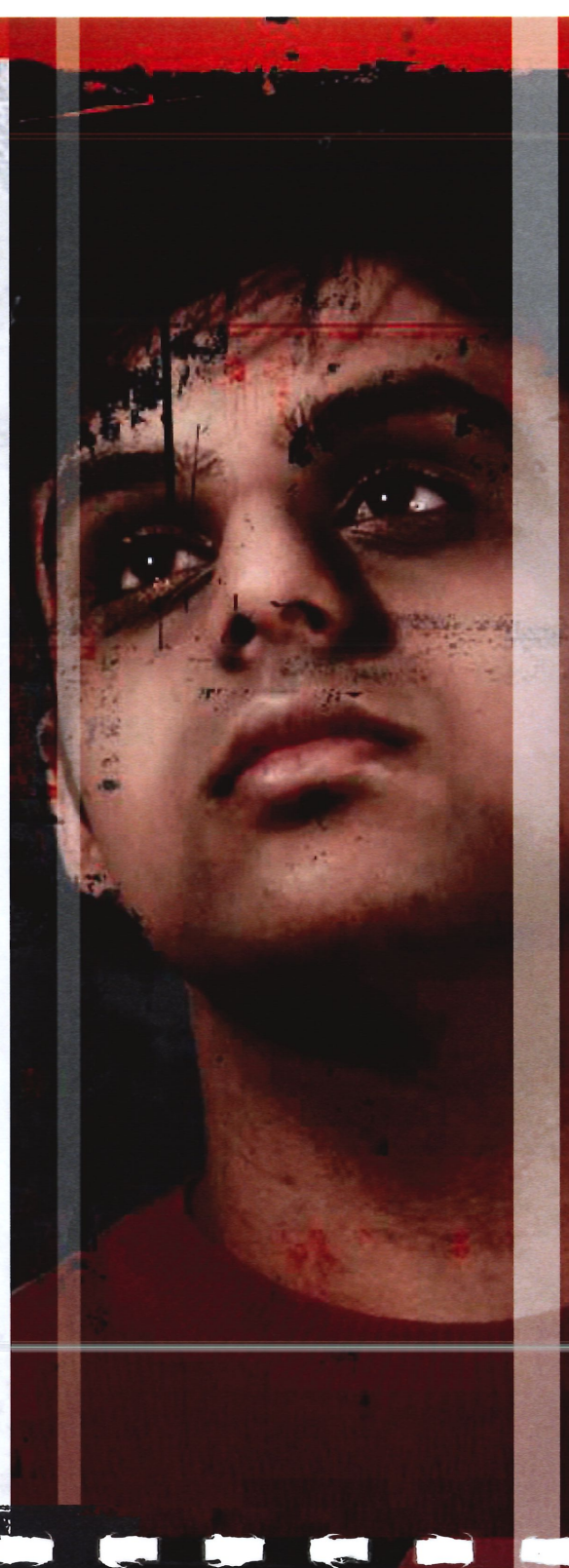
The Hamilton-Niagara RCMP laid various criminal charges including participating in a criminal organization and conspiracy to commit human trafficking against 19 individuals, both males and females, in a forced labour case. The 23 victims, who were all male with the exception of one female, were recruited in Hungary with promises of good jobs and pay. Their transportation to Canada was organized and when the victims arrived in Canada they were told by the accused to make false refugee claims, file for welfare and open bank accounts for which their bank cards were taken from them. They were forced to live in cramped spaces in basements, were poorly fed and clothed, made to work long hours on construction sites without pay, and had their welfare cheques, identification and travel documents taken from them by the accused. The victims were threatened, as were their families in Hungary. As of April 2012, all accused pleaded guilty to various charges such as: fraud, participating in a criminal organization, obstructing justice, and conspiring to commit human trafficking. They received sentences varying from 3.5 months to 9 years in jail.

VI. The RCMP's Role in Addressing Human Trafficking

To strengthen efforts to combat the trafficking of persons, the RCMP established the Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre (HTNCC). The HTNCC serves as the focal point for law enforcement in their efforts to combat and disrupt human trafficking activities. The HTNCC is responsible for the development and coordination of anti-human trafficking activities/initiatives and intelligence related to the four pillars of prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership with domestic and international partner agencies, non-governmental organizations and the community at large. The HTNCC has five main priorities:

- The development of tools, protocols and guidelines to facilitate human trafficking investigations;
- The coordination of national awareness/training and anti-trafficking initiatives;
- The identification and maintenance of lines of communication, identification of issues for integrated coordination and provide support;
- The development and maintenance of international partnerships and coordination of international initiatives; and
- The coordination of intelligence and the dissemination of all sources of information/intelligence to operational units across the country and promotion of the advancement of intelligence in support of enforcement.

The RCMP is a large organization consisting of numerous programs. Many of these programs are currently involved in various roles to address prevention, protection, and prosecution in partnership with the HTNCC's efforts to combat human trafficking (Appendix C).

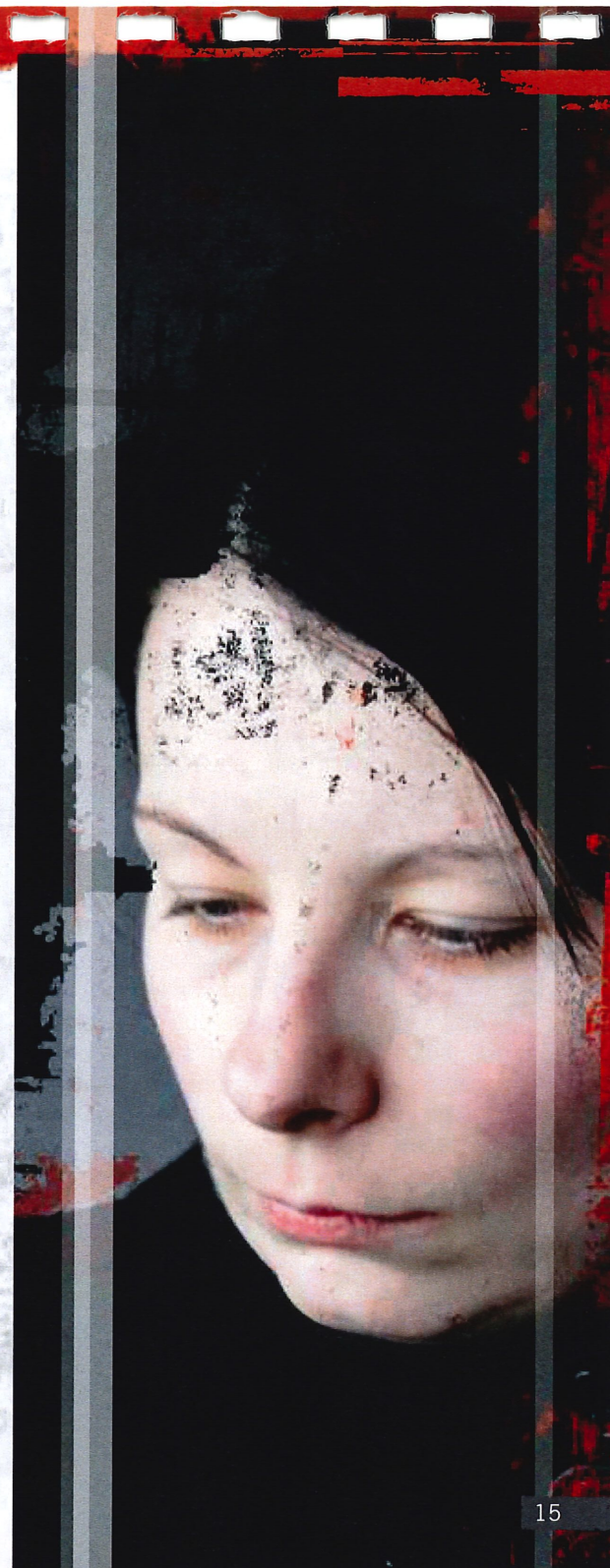


VII. The Impacts of Human Trafficking on Canadians

Despite growing awareness and more effective law enforcement responses, trafficking remains a difficult criminal enterprise to detect with profitable returns. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that annual profits generated from trafficking in human beings are as high as 32 billion USD.⁷ To classify human trafficking in one specific category would be inaccurate; it is a violation of human rights that impedes the rights and dignity of victims while having a direct impact on society at large. Human trafficking cannot be perceived as just a criminal issue or law and order problem, and in order for prevention to be effective it must involve society overall. Given the complexity and severity of this offence and the grave and disastrous nature of victimization, human trafficking has a significant impact on Canadian society in general. These impacts include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Impeding education, development and future productivity, reinforcing the cycle of poverty, health epidemics, and the erosion of cultures;
- Contributing to gender inequality and racial discrimination;
- Aiding the growth of organized crime groups and individual opportunists that live off the proceeds of human trafficking and associated offences;
- Undermining Canada's image as a country that represents freedom;
- Devaluing human rights;
- Diverting federal, provincial/territorial and municipal funds to combat human trafficking and organized crime, that could have otherwise been used for social programming, health care, education and employment opportunities; and
- Eroding respect for the law and a loss of confidence in law enforcement organizations.

⁷ http://www.ilo.org/sapfi/Informationresources/Factsheetsandbrochures/lang--en/docName--WCMP_090356/index.htm



VIII. International Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking

International efforts to combat human trafficking are guided by the UNODC. As the only United Nations entity that focuses on the criminal justice elements of human trafficking, the UNODC works to combat human trafficking internationally. Efforts are supported by the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols on trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.⁸

The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, served as the impetus for addressing human trafficking on the international stage. Entered into force in December 2003, the number of Signatories and Parties has grown to 117 and 150 respectively, as of July 2012.⁹ The Protocol commits Parties to prevent and combat human trafficking, protect and assist trafficking victims and to promote co-operation in striving to meet these objectives.

In addition to the above mentioned Protocol and the obligations that it places on Parties, regional action to address the trafficking of human beings was introduced in 2005. The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings has since been signed by 43 member states. The implementation of this Convention is monitored by the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings through the submission of country reports.¹⁰

On an annual basis, the United States Department of State is required by law to submit to Congress a Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report that outlines and

assesses the anti-trafficking prevention, protection and prosecution activities of other governments against a minimum standard established by the U.S. Government.¹¹ The efforts of international governments are ranked on a tier system, with tier 1 representing a country that meets the minimum standards as outlined by the U.S. in addressing and combating the issue of human trafficking. The U.S. TIP Report provides a detailed overview of the various efforts underway around the world to combat human trafficking, with the majority of international efforts aimed at preventing human trafficking, protecting trafficking victims, promoting and raising awareness of this offence, and establishing and fostering partnerships. Canada participates in the U.S. TIP Report annually and with the exception of the year 2004, Canada has continually been ranked in tier 1 status for its response to combating human trafficking.

The HTNCC is a member of the INTERPOL Task Force on Human Trafficking (ITHT). The INTERPOL working group is the only international mechanism that promotes communication on various trafficking in persons issues within the international law enforcement community. Regular meetings between participating countries afford an opportunity to share and gather intelligence on new global human trafficking trends and share best practices for combating trafficking in persons. In addition to providing the means for exchanging intelligence and best practices, the ITHT is also responsible for capacity building in various countries around the world. The ITHT leverages its membership and local law enforcement experts to train law enforcement on human trafficking issues. The training includes classroom and practical sessions, as well as operations, where participants apply their knowledge

⁸ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/index.html>

⁹ http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtidsg_no=XVIII-12-a&chapter=18&lang=en

¹⁰ <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun?QueVoulezVous.asp?NT=197&CM=8&DF=11/01/2011&CL=ENG>

¹¹ Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Communications Material for Release of the 2011 US Annual Trafficking in Persons Report on June 27, 2011, June 2011, p.1.

and newly acquired investigative skills by rescuing trafficked children, arresting traffickers and working with non-governmental organizations. The HTNCC has attended numerous task force meetings as well as the Annual INTERPOL Conference on Human Trafficking. At these meetings, the HTNCC updates the group on new initiatives adopted by Canada in relation to human trafficking issues.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) provides program support to combat trafficking in persons internationally through the Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program (ACCBP). The program provides yearly funding to enhance the capacity of key beneficiary States, government entities and international organizations through the provision of transfer payment assistance to prevent and respond to threats posed by international criminal activity, including trafficking in persons. Activities considered for funding include technical legal assistance for legislative drafting and harmonization of laws; drafting, translation and dissemination of knowledge tools, best practices and Action Plans; training of government officials, legal professionals and law enforcement officers; and promotion of public awareness of trafficking in persons, especially among vulnerable populations.





IX. Current Challenges in Addressing Human Trafficking

After a thorough analysis of consultations and an extensive review of literature relating to human trafficking, several key challenges were identified. While some of these challenges highlight issues specific to law enforcement, the majority validated the need for a coordinated response on behalf of key partners and stakeholders (government and non-governmental sectors). The following is an overview of these challenges in relation to the strategic objectives outlined in this document, recognizing that several of these challenges have an impact on more than one objective.

- The identification and disruption of human trafficking in Canada remains a significant challenge for the criminal justice system, posing substantial challenges for law enforcement organizations;
- ~ The clandestine nature and complexity of human trafficking offences makes them extremely difficult to uncover and requires ongoing and proactive approaches that are resource intensive;
- ~ Jurisdictional and/or resourcing challenges vary in terms of who is responsible for or equipped to investigate and prosecute human trafficking offences and who is responsible for providing victims with the necessary services;
- ~ The cross jurisdictional and transient nature of human trafficking further hinders the ability of law enforcement organizations to detect and investigate this crime in the absence of working relationships with other law enforcement organizations;
- ~ Most investigations are reactive in nature and are initiated as a result of a victim coming forward to police; therefore the investigation heavily relies on the victim's cooperation to provide the crux of evidence against their trafficker;

- ~ It is challenging for law enforcement to gain and maintain the cooperation of victims during the investigation and ensure they testify in order to increase the likelihood of successful prosecution;
- ~ Human trafficking investigations are complex and require highly skilled investigators. There is a lack of dedicated and skilled resources working on human trafficking related investigations, with resources often managing several different files or being redirected to meet resourcing challenges;
- ~ Although *Criminal Code* offences aimed at combating trafficking in persons came into force in November, 2005, they are still relatively new. As with all new offences, there is a period of time during which those involved in the criminal justice system need to acquaint themselves with the provisions and to educate themselves on the essential elements, evidence required to prove these elements, and on how to best argue these offences in court. Furthermore, these offences are only now proceeding through the courts and there remains a limited body of case law interpreting them;
- ~ There is inconsistent intelligence and information coming from law enforcement agencies across Canada on the extent to which human trafficking is occurring. Law enforcement and/or prosecutors often choose to prosecute through alternative legislation, other *Criminal Code* offences, or to withdraw human trafficking charges as a result of a plea. Law enforcement and/or prosecutors look at each case and the relevant evidence from a global perspective and lay the charges that are supported and that have a reasonable probability of leading to a conviction. Therefore, it is difficult to accurately depict the extent of human trafficking in Canada and prioritize investigations; some organizations only refer to s. 279.01-279.04 *Criminal Code*

as human trafficking while others will include other *Criminal Code* offences that have human trafficking elements; hence, organizations identify human trafficking inconsistently;

- ~ The increasing use of the Internet makes it relatively easy for traffickers to recruit and/or advertise trafficked persons;
 - ~ Like other illicit commodities, criminals are using legitimate businesses for the trafficking of persons (e.g. massage parlours, escort agencies and exotic dance clubs) which further complicates the identification of human trafficking.
- Challenges remain in coordinating a comprehensive organizational response to the threat of human trafficking;
 - Due to the fact that there is still a lack of awareness among the public, the issue of human trafficking may not yet be perceived as a violation of human rights in society;
 - Many victims of this crime do not self identify as victims or seek assistance, hence, they go unnoticed;
 - Intelligence and information sharing between law enforcement and non-law enforcement organizations may be impeded by various protocols and/or pieces of legislation, like the *Privacy Act*;
 - There is limited research regarding human trafficking in Canada, and even less research on the impact of human trafficking on vulnerable populations in Canada, such as the Aboriginal population; and
 - Social, economic and political challenges, while not as widespread as on the international stage, exist within Canada, making certain segments of the population vulnerable to criminal behaviour and/or victimization.

X. Taking Action

Recognizing that there are a variety of challenges facing the RCMP in its efforts to effectively combat domestic and international human trafficking, the following priorities were developed as a result of research, analysis and the consultation process:

a) Enhance prevention strategies in Canada:

There are numerous root causes and risk factors leading to victimization through human trafficking. The RCMP recognizes that in order to enhance prevention strategies, its responses must be holistic in nature, engaging key partners and stakeholders in assuring that risk factors leading to victimization are addressed. Furthermore, a lack of awareness and understanding of this crime continue to exist among law enforcement, government and non-governmental organizations, as well as the public. In order to best prevent and combat human trafficking, the RCMP will:

- Develop and share external communication strategies that have a balanced focus on forced labour and sexual exploitation;
- Continue to develop and monitor awareness campaigns and/or tools that include targeted messaging for various audiences;
- Continue to raise awareness of human trafficking among law enforcement, government and non-governmental organizations, and with the public; and
- Continue to hold quarterly meetings or conference calls with the RCMP Regional Human Trafficking Awareness Coordinators to strengthen the implementation of prevention strategies.

b) Strengthen the assistance and protection of human trafficking victims in Canada:

The most fundamental aspect of combating human trafficking in Canada is to ensure that victims are protected, kept safe and their needs are met. Responding to an offence that revolves around the violation of an individual's human rights must examine ways in which these rights are reinstated and protected. It is also important to ensure that these victims are re-integrated into society without the possibility of being re-victimized by the judicial process or traffickers. In order to ensure that the victims of human trafficking are protected, the RCMP will:

- Continue to employ a victim-centred approach when educating the criminal justice system to ensure the victim's safety and well-being (e.g. testimonial aids, effects of trauma, compensation etc.);
- Continue to work with internal and external partners to leverage best practices, lessons learned and initiatives to ensure that victims are kept safe and their needs are met; and
- Continue to develop a witness management strategy.

c) Improve the identification, disruption and prosecution of human trafficking in Canada:

Human traffickers treat victims as expendable resources; reusing and reselling victims in order to generate the highest profit. Enforcement actions must be directed towards the identification and disruption of human trafficking. However, with limited resources committed to investigating, gathering and analysing intelligence on human trafficking, available information on the demographics of human trafficking victims and offenders is often not documented. As a result, law enforcement organizations are challenged in their ability to identify victims, target offenders,

investigate this crime, and gather intelligence in relation to this crime. In order to address these shortcomings, the RCMP will:

- Work with domestic and international law enforcement organizations to identify and target human traffickers, as well as implement proactive investigative approaches in partnership with victim service providers to effectively detect, disrupt and prosecute human traffickers in Canada;
- Continue to monitor existing RCMP protocols, policies and guidelines to assist with investigating human trafficking;
- In partnership with key stakeholders and subject matter experts in various fields, continue to take a leadership role in educating those involved in the criminal justice system about the issue of human trafficking;
- Continue to collaborate with national and international organizations, as well as internal and external partners, on projects and research aimed at increasing information and data collection on human trafficking within a Canadian context;
- In partnership with domestic and international law enforcement organizations, continue to coordinate, share and disseminate intelligence on human trafficking;
- With a dedicated criminal intelligence analyst, enhance the development and production of classified and unclassified versions of threat assessments and/or intelligence briefs on domestic and international human trafficking within a Canadian context on an on-going basis; and
- Also advance the development and production of threat assessments and a dedicated integrated human trafficking investigative team will be established to proactively investigate human trafficking.

d) Enhance partnerships to combat human trafficking in Canada and abroad

The RCMP recognizes that partnerships are essential for the development of successful strategies to combat human trafficking. Maintaining and developing strong internal and external partnerships and networks both domestically and internationally provides for a comprehensive and coordinated response to human trafficking. No single department, agency or entity has the expertise, mandate or resources to single-handedly combat human trafficking. With this in mind, the RCMP will:

- Continue to establish and maintain partnerships and networks with internal and external stakeholders to develop and/or leverage best practices, lessons learned, and initiatives to proactively address the RCMP's response to human trafficking;
- Formalize and continue to work with various advisory groups comprised of key internal and external stakeholders to proactively address the RCMP's response to human trafficking;
- Participate on the Human Trafficking Taskforce, led by Public Safety Canada and comprised of key departments, which is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Government of Canada's National Action Plan commitments and for coordinating the federal anti-human trafficking response; and
- Continue to develop, support and coordinate international partnerships and initiatives as a means of enhancing the RCMP's commitment to combat human trafficking.

XI. Accountability and Reporting Mechanisms

In addition to implementing the initiatives and measures identified in this strategy, it is important to recognize that a strategy is a living document that should be revisited and modified on an ongoing basis to reflect an ever evolving environment while highlighting successes and addressing new challenges. In order to satisfy this requirement, various initiatives will be incorporated into the RCMP's performance management framework and an annual update on this strategy will be included in the RCMP's Departmental Performance Report. In order to further enhance accountability, an annual progress report will be completed in order to evaluate the current status, successes and challenges relative to the strategy. In addition, an evaluation framework that will assess the effectiveness of this strategy will be developed. Recognizing that this document will be reviewed and modified on an ongoing basis, it is suggested that a comprehensive review of the strategy be implemented within five years to determine the future direction the RCMP should take to address this issue given the successes and challenges that have occurred once this document has been implemented.

XII. Summary

Human trafficking is a transnational and national threat to public safety and a serious violation of human rights. Human trafficking knows no borders and affects all countries, including Canada. A disproportionate number of women and children are victims of this crime. According to the United Nations (2009), women and girls represent 66 and 13 percent of victims respectively, while men and boys represent 12 and 9 percent. The United Nations has estimated that 700,000 people are trafficked each year.¹² Human trafficking not only preys on the vulnerabilities of victims, but in some communities it may contribute to significant social, economic, legal, political and environmental impacts, nationally or internationally.

Given the complex nature of this offence, the implication of organized crime, the grave and disastrous nature of victimization, and the vast and devastating impacts human trafficking has on Canadian society, the RCMP has a responsibility to ensure that it is well positioned to effectively combat human trafficking and trafficking related offences. In order to do this, the RCMP must maximize its strategic positioning and leverage international, federal, provincial/territorial, municipal and non-governmental partnership opportunities. The internal commitment to strategic positioning coupled with a desire to work with key partners and stakeholders aims to ensure that the RCMP remains dedicated to combating the issue of human trafficking while enhancing public safety for all of Canada.

¹² <http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/fs-sw/tp/over-surv.html>

Appendix A : List of Consultation Participants

Law Enforcement

RCMP

RCMP Aboriginal Policing (Pacific Region)
RCMP Aboriginal Policing (Northwest Region)
RCMP Aboriginal Policing Atlantic Region
RCMP National Aboriginal Policing Services
(National Headquarters)
RCMP Immigration and Passport Branch and
Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre
(National Headquarters)
RCMP Immigration and Passport (Pacific Region)
RCMP Immigration and Passport (Northwest Region)
RCMP Immigration and Passport (Ontario Region)
RCMP Immigration and Passport
(National Capital Region)
RCMP Immigration and Passport (Quebec Region)
RCMP Immigration and Passport (Atlantic Region)
RCMP Major Crimes (Winnipeg)

Municipal/International

Amsterdam Police Service (Anti-Trafficking Team)
Calgary Police Service
Edmonton Police Service
Gatineau Police Service
Longueuil Police Service
Montreal Police Service
Ottawa Police Service
Peel Regional Police Service
Saskatoon Police Service
Toronto Police Service
Vancouver Police Department
York Regional Police Service

Federal

Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)

International

Embassy of the United States (Ottawa)
Sweden National Support Operations
U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Attaché

Government

Federal

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT)
Department of Justice Canada (DOJ)
Financial Transaction and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC)
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC)
MP Joy Smith
Public Safety Canada (PS)
Status of Women Canada

Provincial/Territorial

Manitoba Status of Women
Ministry of Labour and Immigration, Manitoba
Nova Scotia Status of Women
Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons (OCTIP), British Columbia
Provincial Crown (Ontario)

Aboriginal

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
Quillit Nunavut Status of Women Council

Non-Governmental Organizations

A Safe Place Women's Shelter
Action Coalition on Human Trafficking (ACT), Alberta (Calgary and Edmonton)
Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation
Chrysalis Network
Covenant House – Vancouver
Kaushee's Place
Legal Assistance Windsor – Human Trafficking Coalition
NASHI
Persons Against the Crime of Trafficking in Humans (PACT) – Ottawa
Resist Exploitation Embrace Dignity (REED)
St. Joseph's Women Centre and Ottawa Coalition
Walk With Me – Ontario

International Non-Governmental Organizations

International Organization for Migration
The Salvation Army
UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking
World Vision

Academia

University of British Columbia
University of Victoria

Appendix B : Human Trafficking Legislation

Immigration and Refugee Protection Act

In 2002, pertinent provisions of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*¹³ (IRPA) came into force including the first specific criminal offence in Canada to target trafficking in persons. Section 118 of the IRPA states:

(1) No person shall knowingly organize the coming into Canada of one or more persons by means of abduction, fraud, deception or use or threat of force or coercion.

(2) For the purpose of subsection (1), “organize”, with respect to persons, includes their recruitment or transportation and, after their entry into Canada, the receipt or harbouring of those persons.

This offence focuses on the method by which a person is brought into Canada. Exploitative conduct associated with the commission of this offence is captured in s. 121 of the IRPA which lists a variety of aggravating factors that must be taken into account when sentencing in a trafficking in persons case. This offence carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and a fine of up to \$1M.

Criminal Code

The *Criminal Code* contains four specific indictable offences to address trafficking in persons. These offences came into force in 2005 with the enactment of Bill C-49, An Act to amend the *Criminal Code* (trafficking in persons) S.C. 2005, c.43.

¹³ S.C. 2001, c.27.

279.01(1) Every person who recruits, transports, transfers, receives, holds, conceals or harbours a person, or exercises control, direction or influence over the movements of a person, for the purpose of exploiting them or facilitating their exploitation is guilty of an indictable offence and liable

a) to imprisonment for life if they kidnap, commit an aggravated assault or aggravated sexual assault against, or cause death to, the victim during the commission of the offence; or

b) to imprisonment for a term of not more than fourteen years in any other case.

(2) No consent to the activity that forms the subject-matter of a charge under subsection (1) is valid.

279.011(1) Every person who recruits, transports, transfers, receives, holds, conceals or harbours a person under the age of eighteen years, or exercises control, direction or influence over the movements of a person under the age of eighteen years, for the purpose of exploiting them or facilitating their exploitation is guilty of an indictable offence and liable:

a) to imprisonment for life and to a minimum punishment of imprisonment for a term of six years if they kidnap, commit an aggravated assault or aggravated sexual assault against, or cause death to, the victim during the commission of the offence; or

b) to imprisonment for a term of not more than fourteen years and to a minimum punishment of imprisonment for a term of five years, in any other case.

(2) No consent to the activity that forms the subject-matter of a charge under subsection (1) is valid.

279.02 Every person who receives a financial or other material benefit, knowing that it results from the commission of an offence under subsection 279.01(1), is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than ten years.

279.03 Every person who, for the purpose of committing or facilitating an offence under subsection 279.01(1), conceals, removes, withholds or destroys any travel document that belongs to another person or any document that establishes or purports to establish another person's identity or immigration status is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than five years, whether or not the document is of Canadian origin or is authentic.

For the purposes of the trafficking in persons offences, exploitation is defined in section 279.04 as:

279.04(1) For the purposes of sections 279.01 to 279.03, a person exploits another person if they cause them to provide, or offer to provide, labour or a service by engaging in conduct that, in all the circumstances, could reasonably be expected to cause the other person to believe that their safety or the safety of a person known to them would be threatened if they failed to provide, or offer to provide, the labour or service.

Factors

(2) In determining whether an accused exploits another person under subsection (1), the Court may consider, among other factors, whether the accused

- a) used or threatened to use force or another form of coercion;
- b) used deception; or
- c) abused a position of trust, power or authority.

Organ or tissue removal

(3) For the purposes of sections 279.01 to 279.03, a person exploits another person if they cause them, by means of deception or the use or threat of force or of any other form of coercion, to have an organ or tissue removed.

Section 7 of the *Criminal Code* was amended by adding the following after subsection (4.1):

Offence in relation to trafficking in persons

(4.11) Notwithstanding anything in this Act or any other Act, every one who, outside Canada, commits an act or omission that if committed in Canada would be an offence against section 279.01, 279.011, 279.02 or 279.03 shall be deemed to commit that act or omission in Canada if the person who commits the act or omission is a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident within the meaning.

Appendix C : List of RCMP Programs

As Canada's national police service, the RCMP possesses a unique role in the world since it is a federal, provincial/territorial and municipal law enforcement organization. Legislated by the *RCMP Act*, the organization is responsible for providing federal policing to all of Canada, provincial/territorial policing services to all but two (Ontario and Quebec) provinces/territories, and has the authority to enforce any Act of Parliament. The RCMP is also present in more than 190 municipalities, over 600 Aboriginal communities and three international airports across Canada.¹⁴

Immigration and Passport Program

The Immigration and Passport (I&P) Program of the RCMP focuses on combating and disrupting individuals and organizations that pose a threat to the public safety of Canada, including those involved in migrant smuggling and the trafficking of persons. Mandated to work in collaboration with domestic and international agencies, and the general community, the I&P Program is primarily responsible for enforcing the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* and the *Citizenship Act*, along with *Criminal Code* violations related to Citizenship offences, Canada Passport offences, frauds, forgeries and conspiracies.

The I&P Program is responsible for the Criminal Visa Screening Unit (CVSU). The enhanced criminal screening process along with location visits and on-site interviews in Canada by the RCMP and Canada Border Services Agency determine the validity of the travel request, the accuracy of information presented by the visitor, and any potential organized crime links. Information gathered is returned to Citizenship and Immigration Canada visa officers for determination of visa issuance.

Criminal Intelligence Program

RCMP Criminal Intelligence (CI) is responsible for the development, coordination and distribution of criminal intelligence within Canada's national police force. As a principal guide to policing operations on serious and organized crime, CI enhances the RCMP's ability to protect Canadians from current or emerging criminal trends by providing tactical and strategic criminal intelligence.

The CI program has provided an analyst to the HTNCC to gather, analyze and share intelligence with respect to human trafficking in Canada. Most recently, the CI program worked with the HTNCC to prepare and release the first national human trafficking threat assessment.

¹⁴ <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/about-ausujet/index-eng.htm>

Organized Crime Branch

In working closely with its partners to combat organized crime of all forms, the RCMP's Organized Crime Branch recognizes that organized criminal activity in Canada is a multi-faceted problem that requires a broad based and integrated approach by law enforcement agencies.

The Organized Crime Branch has worked with the HTNCC in raising awareness about human trafficking among law enforcement via their national organized crime courses as well as among the public through their recently created public awareness campaign. The branch also works with investigative units working on human trafficking cases when witness protection may be required.

| Federal Witness Protection Program

The Federal Witness Protection Program is administered by the RCMP and falls within the Organized Crime Branch.

The federal WPPA program provides the legal framework to protect persons who are involved in providing assistance to law enforcement. This can include persons who are assisting the RCMP in law enforcement matters or those who are assisting another law enforcement agency, provided an agreement has been entered into between the RCMP and that agency. Services offered to witnesses/victims are decided on a case-by-case basis. Canadian law enforcement agencies refer and work with the federal WPPA when a victim/witness of human trafficking is deemed eligible under the terms of the program.

Proceeds of Crime Branch

The Proceeds of Crime (POC) Branch is responsible for policy development, program planning, program monitoring and resource allocation in support of the RCMP's efforts to separate criminals from the profits of their crimes.

Illicit profits undermine the social and economic well-being of Canadians and increase the power and influence of organized criminals and their illegal enterprises. The POC program focuses on identifying, assessing, seizing, restraining and dealing with the forfeiture of illicit wealth accumulated through criminal activities. Much of this wealth is linked to profits derived from Canada's illicit drug trade, but proceeds from other crimes, such as frauds, cigarette smuggling, and human trafficking are also involved.

Investigative units working on human trafficking cases may work with their respective POC units to pursue the financial aspect associated to the human trafficking offence(s). Whenever possible, the RCMP conducts parallel POC investigations when investigating human trafficking offences.

Integrated Border Enforcement Teams

Integrated Border Enforcement Teams (IBETs) are designed to enhance border integrity and security along the shared Canada/U.S. border by identifying, investigating and interdicting persons and organizations that pose a threat to national security or are engaged in other border related criminal activity. There are 15 IBET regions with 24 locations along the Canada/U.S. border. The core IBET agencies are comprised of the RCMP, Canada Border Services Agency, the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, the U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the U.S. Coast Guard. In addition to these five core agencies, there are also federal, provincial, territorial, state and municipal agencies represented within IBET.

Members of IBETs have received human trafficking awareness material, awareness sessions and/or training in order to assist them in identifying possible cases of human trafficking at the Canada-U.S. border and provide assistance to victims.

Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (CPCMEC)

The Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (CPCMEC) represents an integrated team of professionals working to advance national and international efforts in the areas of IT-enabled child sexual exploitation and missing children, missing persons, and unidentified remains. The CPCMEC is comprised of two main programs: the National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC) and the National Missing Children/Missing Person and Unidentified Remains Program.

■ National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC)

The NCECC's mandate is to reduce the vulnerability of children to Internet-facilitated sexual exploitation by: identifying victimized children; investigating and assisting in the prosecution of sexual offenders; and, strengthening the capacity of municipal, territorial, provincial, federal, and international police agencies through training, technology, research, and investigative support. Individuals engaged in sex tourism (traveling sex offenders) are included in the intelligence that is received due to their use of the Internet in organizing and communicating travel activities as well as posting/distributing sex abuse images.

The RCMP is the international contact point for investigation and coordination of cases involving Canadian suspects and victims of Internet-facilitated child sexual exploitation, commercialization of child pornography and traveling child sex offenders.

■ The National Missing Children/Missing Person and Unidentified Remains Services

These services encompass two areas of responsibility:

1. The National Missing Children Services (NMCS) is the only missing children clearing house in Canada that provides information and assistance to law enforcement, not-for profit organizations and parents. Offered by the RCMP's National Police Services (NPS), NMCS' primary objective is to locate, return and protect children.
2. The National Police Support Centre for Missing Children/Missing Persons and Unidentified Human Remains Investigations (NPSCMP) has been created within the existing Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (CPCMEC). Currently under development, the NPSCMP will eventually encompass National Missing Children Services (NMCS) and expand to support all missing persons investigations as well as unidentified remains investigations.

The CPCMEC and the HTNCC exchange information on cases involving child sexual exploitation or missing persons that are suspected to have a link to human trafficking. In addition, the HTNCC includes information about missing persons in its frequently asked questions about human trafficking.

International Policing

Through the Liaison Officer (LO) Program, the RCMP provides direct support and assistance to Canadian law enforcement agencies in the prevention and detection of international offences that have an impact on Canada. There are 37 liaison officers deployed to 26 locations around the world. The

primary role of the LOs is to maintain a link between enforcement agencies in Canada and in their countries of accreditation in order to facilitate bilateral cooperation to advance criminal matters that have a Canadian connection.

The LO Program works with the HTNCC in raising awareness about human trafficking among all LOs. Investigative units working on human trafficking cases utilize LOs in various parts of the world to assist with their investigations, such as building partnerships with local law enforcement, assisting victims and their families, and gathering intelligence from foreign authorities.

INTERPOL Ottawa

Managed by the RCMP, INTERPOL Ottawa serves as the primary link between law enforcement agencies in Canada and around the world. INTERPOL does not actively investigate crimes but acts as a conduit for member countries to share information and seek assistance in criminal investigations within their respective jurisdictions with a specific focus on the following six priority crime areas: drugs and criminal organizations, financial and high tech crime, fugitives, public safety and terrorism, trafficking in human beings and corruption.

INTERPOL Ottawa forwards information to the HTNCC with respect to human trafficking so that it can be shared or acted upon by the appropriate investigative unit. The HTNCC liaises with INTERPOL Ottawa when information or assistance in a criminal investigation is required.

International Affairs and Policy Development Branch

Mandated to ensure that decision making, policies, and operations abroad are intelligence led, coordinated and strategic in a rapidly changing world, and consistent with the RCMP's goal of ensuring a 'safe and secure Canada', the International Affairs and Policy Development

Branch (IAPDB) promotes and coordinates whole-of-government initiatives. IAPDB develops integrated and evidence based policy positions, provides advice on international issues and requests for RCMP engagement internationally, and communicates and connects the RCMP's international work with that of other government departments. IAPDB also serves as the RCMP's focal point for the coordination of requests for capacity building and related policing assistance efforts abroad.

The IAPDB works with the HTNCC when requests regarding human trafficking capacity building initiatives abroad are received. The HTNCC reviews such requests and provides input accordingly. The HTNCC also keeps the IAPDB informed of international initiatives in which it participates.

Contract and Aboriginal Policing

Contract and Aboriginal Policing (CAP) is responsible for managing the Contract Policing business line, including provincial, territorial, municipal and Aboriginal policing. Through these services CAP supports directly and indirectly all the priorities and initiatives of the RCMP. CAP is committed to delivering the highest quality policies, programs, research and tools which support the enforcement, prevention and education of the front line services.

I National Crime Prevention Services

National Crime Prevention Services (NCPS) is a support service and policy centre that provides national coordination and leadership on effective ways to prevent, reduce and intervene on crime by focusing on the risk factors before crime happens and by promoting the implementation of effective crime prevention practices. NCPS is responsible for one of the five RCMP National Strategic Priorities: Youth. This unit is comprised of two areas: Community Engagement and National Youth Services.

Community Engagement (CE) seeks to engage, mobilize and educate communities and RCMP members on awareness, crime prevention, crime reduction and intervention issues.

National Youth Services (NYS) supports frontline officers who work with youth by providing training, policy advice, and activities relating to awareness, crime prevention and enforcement specific to youth in Canada. NYS includes the Youth Engagement Section (YES), which administers DEAL.org, an external web-based program that aims to provide a youth for youth voice to raise awareness about the issues and problems facing young people. By effectively engaging and connecting with youth ages 12-17, the YES develops strategies and resources to assist front-line members.

NCPS efforts to combat human trafficking are focused on domestic human trafficking and are coordinated with the HTNCC. NCPS liaises with law enforcement, federal, provincial/territorial, municipal government and non-governmental agencies to gather and exchange knowledge on human trafficking, including the trafficking of children. This ongoing exchange ensures that education and awareness products aimed at front line members and the public are current and accurate. NCPS also collaborates with Aboriginal Policing coordinators within their respective Divisions on human trafficking issues specific to Aboriginal victims/offenders, and works to ensure education/awareness products support mechanisms in vulnerable communities.

National Aboriginal Policing Services

Aboriginal communities are one of the RCMP's five strategic priorities. To meet its objective of safer and healthier Aboriginal communities, the RCMP works collaboratively with Aboriginal partners to develop innovative policing approaches that meet their distinctive needs.

National Aboriginal Policing Services (NAPS) contributes to the health and safety of Aboriginal communities by building new and strengthening existing partnerships with more than 600 Aboriginal communities serviced by the RCMP, governments and Aboriginal stakeholders at the local, provincial, territorial and national levels. Through the effectiveness of its partnerships, NAPS is better positioned to provide strategic advice to senior management.

Supporting Initiatives to address the issue of Missing and Murdered Persons, including Aboriginal persons

To address the issue of missing and murdered persons, the RCMP works in collaboration with a number of partners, including other law enforcement agencies, provincial and territorial governments, as well as National Aboriginal Organizations and non-governmental organizations, and the public.

In March 2011, representatives from the Assembly of First Nations and RCMP developed a joint work plan to specifically address the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal persons. Work continues to have the draft work plan formally adopted by both the AFN and RCMP.

The RCMP NAPS has a dedicated member who liaises with the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC).

The Aboriginal population, especially young girls, have been identified as a vulnerable group to traffickers. The HTNCC liaises with NAPS on all human trafficking initiatives involving Aboriginal issues.

