



## Operation Love Bomb:

Utilizing the power of art as a crime prevention tool.

Report prepared by:

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

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

Witness: Joanne Crampton

Submitted by: Anne Turley

Add'l info: P02-03P04P0101

Date: OCT 15 2018

Initials

63

I/D

Entered

10

## What is Love Bomb?

The Love Bomb Project is a unique and innovative Crime Prevention/Awareness tool that breaks all social and cultural barriers to assist in combating Sex Exploitation and Human Trafficking. Shameless Hussy Productions and Cpl Harvey with the RCMP have partnered on this project for over a year, which has resulted in over 40 shows in all corners of British Columbia.

Love Bomb itself is a rock show in a play that follows the story of a mother in search for her missing, teenaged daughter. In her search, she comes across the newest You Tube sensation, Justine Chambers. The lyrics to Justine's hit song, *Missing the Point*, hit close to home for the mom, and she follows the clues to uncover more of the mystery surrounding what happened to her daughter. Don't be fooled by the fictional characters that are depicted, because a large majority of the content is pulled from real life cases. The writer, Meghan Gardener, put in an exceedingly dedicated research effort, working with police and Crown prosecutors to create the most realistic version of events she could. Many of the circumstances in the play mirror what victims had gone through in the landmark R v Moazami case out of BC. This is just one more example as to what makes this play such a poignant and well received crime prevention tool.

## How Does it Work for Crime Prevention/Awareness?

Due to the important topic that is covered during the play, there is always a talk back session at the end of each show. This provides the opportunity for local resources relating to sexual exploitation and human trafficking to share information and awareness on the topic. Anyone who works in outreach or law enforcement understands that getting the message out is one step, but ensuring the message is received is a challenge in itself, especially considering the content. The very unique medium of the play has proven its success in touching **all** audiences and provides the platform for a very engaged discussion on this dangerous issue that continues to infect communities across Canada.



This project runs parallel with MMIWG initiatives across the country because numbers have shown that Indigenous community members are at an alarming risk of falling into this industry comparatively to non-Indigenous community members. It is the mission of both Shameless Hussy Productions and Cpl Harvey to ensure that ALL Canadians are aware of this topic and have the tools/knowledge to protect themselves against the predators in this field.

Other Topics that come up in talk backs to assist in educating youth and parents are:

- Internet Safety (Security settings and sexting)
- Drug/Alcohol use, and safety protocols

- Laws about consent
- Warning signs to look for if you or a loved one may be being groomed
- What is the definition of Love Bomb?

## Who are the Partners?

The motivation behind this unique partnership is in part to Cpl Harvey's role in Aboriginal Policing. Working closely with Indigenous communities in BC, and now in Alberta, she is more than aware of the alarming statistics relating to missing persons cases. Further to that, working closely with the Human Trafficking Coordinator, she appreciates the exponentially higher risk to Indigenous Community members versus non-Indigenous persons in falling into the heinous realm of Human Trafficking. Luckily for her, Shameless Hussy Productions shares this passion in giving individuals the tools to help protect against such predators. As such, this has become a powerful and poignant initiative that aligns with MMIWG initiatives across the Country. Together, we are doing our part in protecting all our community members, and will to share this project with anyone that wish to do the same.

**Shameless Hussy Productions** was founded in 1995 and has been telling provocative stories about women ever since. Many of the founding members of Shameless Hussy Productions are involved in this very project. Renee Iaci is the Director and Tour Coordinator and Deb Pickman is the Media Coordinator, and the original "Lillian" (mother) are both founding members of the company. As mentioned, the play and lyrics are written by the incredible Meghan Gardiner, who also wrote Dissolve. The music and additional lyrics were written by Steven Charles. Daune Campbell is an extraordinary actress who has been bringing the raw emotion of "Lillian" on the road for each of our tours to date, and Amanda Testini and Sara Vickruck are two triple threat actresses that have brought "Justine Chambers" to life and to the hearts of all the audiences.

**Cpl Sue Harvey** has been with the RCMP for 9 years, and has served for communities big and small. For the past several years, Cpl Harvey has been working as a front line liaison for the Aboriginal Policing Section, initially as a First Nations Community Police Officer in Northern British Columbia, and now as an Aboriginal Policing Supervisor in Northern Alberta. Her community members and their safety is Cpl Harvey's main priority. As such, she is constantly in search of new, innovative and effective ways to help keep her communities safe.

Various RCMP partners and community partners have been engaged throughout to provide local support for communities along the way. These partners are selected based on their role in their respective communities and how they can support victims of this heinous industry.

## Who is the Target Audience?

-Youth/Friends

- Parents/Grandparents/Extended Family
- Teachers/Health Providers/Counsellors
- Hotel owners/staff
- Anyone who wishes to take a stand against/or wishes to learn more about exploitation

Human Trafficking is a multi-billion dollar industry, second only to drugs worldwide. Much like the drug industry, victims of Human Trafficking, including sex trafficking, come from a variety of backgrounds and socio-economic statuses. Experiences have shown throughout Canada that it does not matter if there is a bicycle or a Mercedes Benz as the family form of transport, the predators in this industry do not discriminate.

Research has shown that victims are drawn into this industry as young as 11 years old, and the average age of a human trafficking victim is 14-15 years old. As such, the primary target is youth, anyone who has a youth in their life, or anyone that works with youth. Ultimately, the more people that we can reach, the more of an impact we can have and the more people we can keep safe.

## How is it Funded?

- Grants
- Community partners
- Sponsors

Like many important projects, funding is a constant challenge. The various partners involved work together to secure the funding required to reach as many people as possible.

Funding for tours to date have been the result of community funding, business sponsors at the local level, as well as various grants. Seeing the impact that this project has had to date, Shameless Hussy Productions and Cpl Harvey continue to look for new ways to fund and expand the project until every Canadian has the tools they need to stay safe.

## Tours to Date:

### South Peace Project: September 2016

Cst Harvey, the First Nations Community Policing Officer in Chetwynd, BC facilitated an 8 show tour throughout the Peach Region of British Columbia. Partnered with Cpl Jassy Bindra, the Human Trafficking Coordinator for the BC and Yukon, the project stopped in 4 different communities for a total of 8 shows. Stops included Fort St John, Dawson Creek, Tumbler Ridge and Chetwynd. Each stop included a school show specifically for the youth, and a community show that was open to everyone.

The tour reached approximately 2000 students overall and received positive feedback from youth, parents, teachers/administrators and community partners. The level of engagement of the youth, not only during the show but in the talk backs, re-enforced the positive effects that this type of model had in approaching such a serious topic.

### Lower Mainland/Vancouver Island: April and May 2017

After the success of the tour in the Peace Region, other Aboriginal Policing members wished to bring the play to their area. As such, a Spring tour was set up to accommodate those in the Lower Mainland/Vancouver Island area. This tour consisted of 13 shows, with stops in the following locations: Surrey, Vancouver, Abbotsford, Duncan, Victoria, Saanich and Lytton.

After hearing the success of the previous tours, many schools became interested. This, in turn, resulted in the majority of the 13 shows being in the High Schools, presenting to grades 8 through 12. As the majority of the audiences were students, the numbers were reduced slightly due to venue size and capacity; however, a total of approximately 1700 people were able to participate.

Once again, the feedback was incredible. During one of the stops, a bus driver took the time to share her feedback. She shared that she was incredibly grateful that Shameless Hussy Productions and the RCMP were willing to take on this project and share the message. Her sister had been missing for over 15 years, and she expressed that she believed she would know where her sister was if they had been able to take part in this same experience in their youth.

Cpl Harvey would like to acknowledge the E Div Aboriginal Policing Section, and the Abbotsford Police Youth Section for their partnership on this tour.

### Highway of Tears/Haida Gwaii:

As the goal of this project is to try our best to prevent people from disappearing into this horrible realm of victimization, bringing it to the Highway of Tears brought an entirely new level of pride. The tour consisted of 21 shows at the following locations: Williams Lake, Quesnel Fraser Lake, Burns Lake, Vanderhoof, Fort St James, Prince Rupert, Queen Charlotte City, Masset, Nass Valley, Victoria, Duncan and Courtenay. The response from the tour was overwhelmingly positive, with many of the communities requesting return visits. Further to that, the project garnered the attention of different RCMP units that have Human Trafficking as part of their mandate, thus providing further potential to expand the project within the Province.

Although the large majority of the stops were in small communities, the project reached approximately 3000-3500 audience members. The talk back sessions continued to be successful, and the crew and officers involved were happy to report the engaged involvement of male youth in the talk backs as well. Although the majority of sexual exploitation victims are female, there are male victims as well. Further to that, men play a very important role in standing up for the victims. As such, the fact that so many young men were actively informing

themselves on the warning signs to ensure the safety of their female friends and family members was incredibly impactful.

Another poignant message from this tour was that from a mother that approached the cast after the talk back. She shared that her daughter had fallen victim to sexual exploitation. She was now safe, and back at home, but her mother was exceedingly grateful for the message that we were sharing.

Cpl Harvey would like to acknowledge the support and assistance of the RCMP Strategic Prevention Services Unit and Victoria Police, who were a valuable resource on the talk back panel during this tour. Their involvement enhanced the impact of the project and we are incredibly grateful for the knowledge they were able to share.

### Voices Against Violence Conference:

Love Bomb was recently showcased during a multi-disciplinary conference in High Level, AB this past November. The primary focus of the conference was the various aspects and complexities of Domestic Violence; however, the topic of Sex Trafficking is very much related. As such, a show case of the Love Bomb project was not only highly anticipated in the Region, but very much appropriate to compliment the content of the conference.

As the showcase was part of a conference, Cpl Harvey followed up the show/talk back immediately after with a presentation on Human Trafficking. This proved to be exceedingly helpful because the play was so well researched and based on real victims, she was able to reference back to the play, giving the audience a face to the horrible circumstances regarding Human Trafficking.

Cpl Harvey was approached by many conference goers after the initial showcase who admitted that they were a little apprehensive when they heard that they were going to watch a play about sex trafficking. They didn't know what to expect, but were hoping for the best. After watching the show, they were in pure amazement of not only the accuracy of the story but also the power of the music and the play in breaking down barriers to address this important topic.

By the end of the conference, Cpl Harvey was convinced that a combination of the play and then the human trafficking presentation was the best option for educating government and community partners on this topic. The presentation on Human Trafficking is always shocking to many who may not be aware that this is a very active risk across the country, especially to our Indigenous population. The level awareness achieved by pairing these two presentations was just incredible.

### Results and Feedback:

After touring and interacting with the various communities it was clear that the audiences were gaining insight into a reality that they did not appreciate prior. Further to that, the examples

provided demonstrated just how easy it was for someone to unwittingly become entangled in this very scary, very real world.

The various tours have particularly reinforced Cpl Harvey's assessment that Love Bomb surpasses all cultural and socio-economical barriers in order to provide a very important awareness to the communities. She has observed audiences of all different demographics, from communities big and small, connecting with the characters and realizing how the young person in their life (or them as the young person themselves) can make decisions to protect against the predators out there. In fact, the talk back sessions engaged in discussions of numerous, yet very much related issues, such as cyber-security and ways to protect the various predators that lure through computers.

The involved partners weighed the success of the tours heavily on the feedback of the schools and parents, but also on the feedback from the subject matter experts that joined along the way.

*"As someone who has been involved in the field of human trafficking for almost 6 years, I found that "Love Bomb" was a very true representation of how recruitment / grooming of our youth occurs in our local communities. It was also told in a fashion that all people, especially the youth target audience, could relate to. Youth are not always interested in listening to an authority figure speak, which can often result in crucial information not being processed by them; however, with "Love Bomb" not only were the youth interested in the play itself, they were interested enough to stay after the play to ask questions, and some were interested enough to come back out for a second show with their families. I think that nothing can speak to the power of "Love Bomb" any more than that.*

*I have found that school districts often shy away from having an actual human trafficking talk in their schools because they view it more as a sex education talk and less as a safety education talk. With plays like "Love Bomb" available as a resource, there is no longer the need for a traditional talk to occur, as the play very effectively bridges the gap, if not more so."*

**-Cpl Jassy Bindra, the RCMP Human Trafficking Coordinator for BC and Yukon regarding the tour she joined (Fall 2016)**

*"Voices Against Violence was by far the best conference I have attended. The presenters were extremely informative and had a unique way of keeping the attendees engaged. The highlight of the 2 day conference, for me, was Love Bomb. As someone who has experienced exploitation and trafficking I was blown away at how realistic this representation was. It felt like they had written my experience into a play and I was instantly connected. I was so moved by it I went to see it a second time! I'd love to see this show performed all over Canada so we can bring awareness to our youth and our communities."*

**-Victim Service Advocate, Edmonton, AB**

*"This presentation was 'POWERFUL' to see! [It is] a must see for all service providers, community, parents and youth!!!" - Anonymous attendee of the VAV Conference*

*"I am very familiar with the topic, but I felt the presentation was new which allowed it to be presented in a more realistic fashion. By "entertaining", the audience, it was enjoyable to sit through the show but at the same time the story that was being told was very somber and scary,*

*but real. For someone who isn't in touch with this subject, it would have been very easy to understand and connect with the reality of the story. Great show!! I see the benefit of the talk back and I think it is a great opportunity for the local detachment/ police to communicate with the public on the issue."*

**RCMP Member-Prince Rupert, BC**

*"This was an amazing presentation that really draws attention to a troubling, but very real part of our world. As a family member to a child that was groomed by North Preston's Finest and then moved to [another location in Canada\*], I believe this presentation is very important for all to see. I believe this should be shown to [child protection] staff as it reminds everyone just how vulnerable the children we work with are. If you haven't been touched by trafficking, you need a presentation like this to make it very real."* - **Anonymous attendee of the VAV Conference**

## **Prospective and Future Tours:**

### **Fall 2018:**

#### **Alberta:**

**Oct 17- High Prairie**

2 shows, 1:30 and 7:00 at Bishop Routhier School, Peavine Metis Settlement

**Oct 19- Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation**

2 shows, 1:30 and 7:00 at Community Hall

**Oct 22-Enoch Cree Nation**

2 shows, 1:30 and 7:00 (evening show tentative) at Kitaskinaw School

**Oct 24- Paul Band FN (Duffield, AB)**

2 shows, 1:30 and 7:00 venue TBD

**Oct 25- Morinville**

1 Show at 10:30, contact school contact for directions

**Alexander First Nations**

1 show, 7:00 Community Hall

**Oct 26-Maskawacis Cree Nation**

2 shows, 1:30 and 7:00 at Jonas Applegarth Theatre

**Oct 29-Goodfish Cree Nation**

2 shows, 1:30 and 7:00 Pakan School and Community Hall respectively

**Saskatchewan:**

**Nov 1-Leader**

1 Show, 7:00 at Leader Community Centre

**Nov 5-Creighton**

2 shows, 1:05 and 7:00 at the Creighton Community School

**Nov 9-Regina**

1 show, 7:30 at University of Regina Shu-box theatre

**British Columbia**

**Nov 14-** Possible shows in Burnaby/Vancouver TBD

**Nov 15- Surrey**

1 show, 1:00pm at Surrey Civic Theatres Centre Stage

**Summary:**

19 shows in 12 communities across BC, AB and SK.

**Vancouver Island:**

Recently, there has been interest expressed to expand the project on Vancouver Island. Plans are underway to apply for a grant to take Love Bomb to the Northern portion of the island, including smaller communities such as Alert Bay, to ensure maximum awareness. Tentative tour dates would be early 2019.

**Contact:**

For more information on the play please visit [www.shamelesshussy.com](http://www.shamelesshussy.com) or contact Renee Iaci at [Renee@shamelesshussy.com](mailto:Renee@shamelesshussy.com) or Cpl Harvey at [susan.harvey@rcmp-qrc.gc.ca](mailto:susan.harvey@rcmp-qrc.gc.ca).

