

It's Nobody's Mandate and Everyone's Responsibility:

Sexual Exploitation and the Sex Trade in Newfoundland and Labrador



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Credits

Funding

Funding for this research was provided by the Women's Policy Office, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Sponsoring Organization

The Community Youth Network-St. John's sponsored this research. The Coalition Against the Sexual Exploitation of Youth (CASEY) developed the original research concept.

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Over 100 women and men participated in this research. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Together, they helped to paint a picture of what is happening in our province. Collectively, this far-flung group of individuals asks us to accept our responsibility, develop new mandates, and take action to prevent sexual exploitation. They urge us to provide protection and support to people who work in the sex trade, and they have shown us how to help people exit the trade when they are ready.

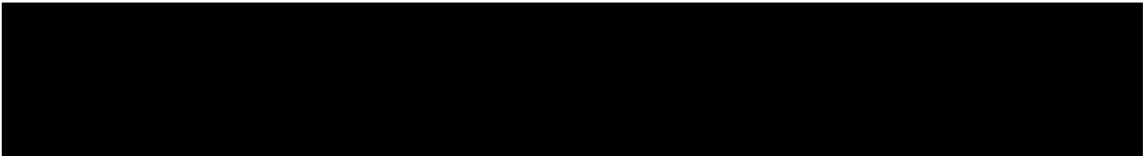
Between December 2010 and April 2011, 103 key informant interviews were conducted with 120 people. The voices in this report are from representatives of youth-serving agencies, Aboriginal organizations, shelters, women's organizations, social workers, health care providers, housing agencies, teachers, RCMP, RNC and the Department of Justice. Seven site visits were made to agencies in British Columbia, including sex trade worker organizations, street outreach services, health care services and victim services.

This report is dedicated to the people [REDACTED] and to those who committed to taking action on their behalf.

April 2011

Introduction

Many do not believe that the sex trade is alive and well in Newfoundland and Labrador. Most cannot comprehend that children are sexually exploited in our province. The heartbreaking truth is that children and youth are sexually exploited in many ways throughout this province. We also have a thriving adult sex trade.



Interviews were conducted in person wherever possible. Still, the majority took place over the phone. Handwritten notes were transcribed and reviewed by key informants for accuracy and completeness.

Sexual exploitation and sex trade work are not new to St. John's, but until recently, there was no organization in place to address it. In 2001, the St. John's-based Coalition Against the Sexual Exploitation of Youth (CASEY) was formed through the cooperation of community organizations, agencies and police representatives. Members of this coalition aided youth involved in the sex trade and those who were at a high risk of being exploited. Research has proven that a great number of adult sex trade workers were sexually exploited as children.

In 2010, CASEY developed the research proposal that has culminated in this report. This research project was sponsored by the Community Youth Network-St. John's. The Women's Policy Office of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador provided funding. Two important goals have been the main focus of our study:

1. To communicate and give context to the growing prevalence of youth sexual exploitation, sex trafficking and the adult sex trade in Newfoundland and Labrador to this report's readers
2. To identify coordination models, practices, policies, services and programs that could result in the prevention of sexual exploitation, sex trade activity and increased safety and supports for individuals involved in the sex trade

Active membership in the program flourished since CASEY's redevelopment in 2007: Adolescent Addictions Services (Eastern Health); AIDS Committee NL; Canadian Red Cross; Child, Youth and Family Services; Choices for Youth; Department of Education; Health Promotion (Eastern Health); Human Resources, Labour and Employment; Naomi Centre; NL Foster Families Association; NL Sexual Assault, Crisis and Prevention Centre; Planned Parenthood NL; Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC); Shalome Group Home; Street Reach; Waypoints, and an experiential representative. CASEY is

currently chaired by the Community Youth Network-St. John's. Since 2007, the group has coordinated training for service providers, produced a video on preventing the sexual exploitation of youth, facilitated public awareness sessions, and conducted policy reviews.

As part of this research, an extensive literature review was completed on a wide range of issues related to the sexual exploitation of youth and various components of the adult sex trade, including human trafficking for the purposes of sex. Attached to this report is a bibliography of relevant print, video, audio and internet material. The materials are currently housed at the offices of the Community Youth Network-St. John's and will be useful to those who move this work forward.

While the picture remains somewhat incomplete, there is no question the sex trade is flourishing in our province and that sexual exploitation is wide-spread. However, the research identified little in the way of coordination models, practices, policies, services or programs to assist with the issues linked to sexual exploitation or the sex trade in this province.

CASEY is the only organization mandated to prevent the sexual exploitation of youth in Newfoundland and Labrador. Street Reach is located in downtown St. John's. It is the only program mandated to provide direct outreach services to sexually exploited youth and adults involved with the sex trade.

Most sex trade workers seldom garner a safe or healthy workplace, payroll benefits, community services, supports, or respect. To date, survivors of human trafficking—an established problem in Canada—have no services geared towards them to consult whatsoever.

Those who have given their time to this report so that a framework of sexual exploitation and the adult sex trade in our province can be constructed have also helped in the creation of a set of recommendations to curb those very crises. It's time we accepted our responsibility. It's time to develop new mandates. It's time to act.

Definitions

Commercial Sex Trade: sex work that takes place in formal business establishments, including strip clubs, massage parlours and escort services; it includes street-based sex workers, those who work the ships and boats in ports, and others who may be self-employed

Exiting: the often difficult and complex long-term process of leaving the sex trade

Exploitation: taking advantage of someone for personal profit, pleasure, and/or control

Experiential Person: a child, youth or adult who is or has been sexually exploited or worked in the sex trade

Human Trafficking for the sex trade: the recruitment, transport, transfer, receiving, holding, concealment or harbouring of a person; exercising control, direction or influence over the movements of a person for the purposes of sexually exploiting them or facilitating their sexual exploitation; trafficked victims usually cannot, or perceive that they cannot, leave their circumstances. (Source: Modified from the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Article 3)

John: one who buys sex; a customer; a trick; a date

Pimp: one who solicits customers for a prostitute or a brothel, usually in return for a share of the earnings; pander; procurer; usually associated with men; (verb used with object) to act as a pimp for; to exploit

Rub and Tug: an erotic massage parlour

Sexting: the slang term for the use of a cell phone or other similar electronic device to distribute pictures or vide of sexually explicit images; also, text messages of a sexually-charged nature

Sexual Exploitation: an older youth or adult taking advantage of a younger child or youth for sexual purposes, including participation in prostitution, pornographic performances, and the production of pornography; youth involved in any aspect of the sex trade (prostitution, phone sex, stripping, pornography, etc.) are sexually exploited

Sex Trade: activities included in this definition for the purpose of this report are the trading of sex for goods and services as well as financial compensation, street activity, strip club/exotic dancing, escort services, massage parlours, trafficking of persons for sex trade, pornography and sexual exploitation

Survival Sex: trading sex for food, shelter, protection, drugs or alcohol

The Newfoundland and Labrador Sex Trade

“I really think the debate over whether it’s here or not has to end.”

You may not see it at first but once you start looking you’ll find an organized adult sex trade in Newfoundland and Labrador that is mainstreamed and normalized. While the adult commercial sex trade is easy to locate in downtown St. John’s and Corner Brook, this is only the tip of the iceberg. Much of what takes place is hidden in communities all around the province.

Sex work can be formal or informal. It can be the main source of income or an occasional way to meet an immediate need.

The customers can be anyone, although the vast majority are men. Hook-ups are arranged in person, over the phone, via the internet or through a pimp. Workers may receive a paycheck, cash, drugs, other goods or nothing at all.

People who work in the sex trade are a diverse group. They include girls, boys, women, men, and transgendered individuals. They can be heterosexual, bisexual, or homosexual, and are from all races and ethnic backgrounds. They come from every economic background and level of education. They are from every community in the province, and many are ‘from away’.

The sex trade is a full-time occupation for many women and men. Some work on a casual basis to meet basic, short-term economic needs. Some adults freely choose to earn their living in the sex trade while others are forced into it. For some, it may be the only employment or survival option available. Workers regularly come here from other provinces to work in the trade.

Survival sex is by far the most frequent type of sex trade activity in Newfoundland and Labrador. The majority of youth and adults who engage in survival sex do not see themselves as being part of the sex trade: they believe that they are simply doing what they have to do in order to survive. Without any supports available or visible to them, how are they to believe differently?

Children and youth in the sex trade are the most sought-after, sold for the highest prices. Sexually exploited children and youth, as well as many women, are forced, coerced or seduced into the sex trade, and continue a cycle of exploitation into their adult years.

The Adult Commercial Sex Trade

A strong economy brings increased organized crime, increased drugs and increased prostitution. [REDACTED]

The metro St. John's area has the largest population, the most wealth and the majority of the commercial sex trade activity in the province. This includes advertized massage parlours, escort services, and strip clubs, as well as street-based activity. It also includes a large, unknown number of underground massage parlours, brothels, pimps and independent sex trade workers.

There's nothing that happens on the mainland that doesn't happen in St. John's. [REDACTED] People can order a sex worker like they order a pizza; name the characteristics you want: male, female, colour, size, age, etc. [REDACTED] You can order a 12-year-old on a credit card. [REDACTED]

If you're interested in buying sex, all it takes is a glance in the local phone book under Massage, Escort and Entertainment-Adults, or a perusal of the personal ads in your local newspaper.

Excerpts from the Monday, April 11, 2011 edition of The Telegram - Adult Personal Ads:

- A beautiful petite blond, a true GFE. Nicky at (phone number). (Now Hiring.)
- A New Fantasy Plus Now Open. Exotic massage studio. In and out service and new drug free ladies. Discretion assured. Call (phone number). "Come and tell us your fantasy."
- "A small petite brunette, new in town, 19 years old, outcalls only. Call Ashley at (phone number).
- Beautiful black and white laides (sic) available from Toronto. 24 hour service. Call (phone number).
- Male escort/massage, private/discreet. (phone number)
- EXECUTIFSWEET Massage Studio providing unparalleled luxury, serenity and an extraordinary level of service from some of the most beautiful and sensual ladies in the city. Imitated but never duplicated. Visit (website and phone number)
- For one lady only. Beautiful massage service/self employed. Call me Lori, (phone number)
- HUSH. First and finest adult massage studio in the St. John's area. 7 days a week, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Now hiring. (phone number)

- STUDIO Aura provides sensual relaxation massage services. Offering the largest selection of (sic) drug free ladies. Eleven on staff. You're sure to find your fav. We are fully licensed, upscale & discreet. (website and phone number)
- Young attractive lady. Daily specials. Call for details, in & out service. 24 hrs. Jen at (phone number)

These ads may soon disappear from our newspapers and phone books, and go deeper underground. Nearly everyone uses the internet to connect, including sex trade businesses, self-employed sex workers and sexual predators. Online 'dating sites' and other social media sites are used extensively by those involved in the sex trade. Log onto any search engine, type in the name of a community along with the word sex, and in less than 10 seconds you'll be cruising your local sex trade highway, engaging in 'clicks for tricks.'

Large escort agencies can operate anywhere in the country without local management. Once they have hired people to work in a town or city, they simply use the internet to book discount hotel rooms and set up 'dates'. Agencies in Toronto have no trouble running their business in St. John's.

Online hook-ups are common. Girls post pictures of themselves and others post photos and videos of them using online accounts to connect, including Facebook, Plenty of Fish, and Hotmail.

The technology is evolving so the method shifts. ■■■■

Youth report they recruit dates by connecting with men working on rotation in Alberta via Facebook. They connect with the men while they are away and meet them when they get back. ■■■■

Trip Advisor, a mainstream tourism website, also provides information that facilitates action in the sex trade. The Newfoundland & Labrador section includes information about the dangers of moose on the highway alongside where to find sex on the street in St. John's: "[...] The prostitution stroll for women is on Church Hill, for men it's on the east end of Duckworth St. If you make new friends on these streets expect there to be an accompanying price tag." The International Sex Guide website offers information and discussion forums about the sex trade and specific workers in St. John's.

The west coast of the province has a small but established commercial sex trade activity. A quick internet check will provide you with contact information for a Corner Brook strip club and escort services for Corner Brook, Stephenville and Port aux Basques. During the summer of 2010, the commercial sex trade moved into a trailer outside Deer Lake. Gander had a club that brought strippers in from the circuit on a

semi-regular basis but it has not been open for some time. A club in Grand Bank used to bring in male and female strippers regularly during the winter months.

The majority of workers in massage parlours and escort services are local people. The same business can own four or five different services. Massage parlours have varying degrees of professionalism, [REDACTED]

Most strip clubs hire a combination of locals and women working the circuit. [REDACTED] Typically the workers [on the circuit] stay out of their province of origin. If they are from here, they may work two weeks in another province and come back for a week, however often they want to go. [REDACTED] There can be a progression of employment that leads to working the circuit out of province, starting with working the coat-check, then bussing tables, bartending, dancing, private dancing or lap dancing, then VIP room, and finally the club circuit. [REDACTED]

A sex trade business can have five or six women bringing in well over \$5,000 per day. The business may trump up fines against the workers for breaking house rules as a means of exercising control and maximizing profit. Some strip clubs and massage parlours frown on 'extras' on their premises. Other businesses do not want to explicitly know that sex is taking place. For example, an escort service will charge a fee for the escort service but whatever sex takes place is negotiated between the customer and the worker. Any money earned for a sex act belongs to the worker. [REDACTED]

Conventions increase the rate of girls working on the street, the taxi and hotel trade, and involvement with girls in group homes and shelters. [REDACTED]

Many sex trade businesses are owned by out-of-province organized crime and run by local managers, who are often women. Currently, one agency advertizes itself as having in-house female management. In the past, the [strip club] was owned by a woman; and the [escort agency] was sold from one woman to another. [REDACTED] Bribes and blackmail can be involved in running these businesses. [REDACTED]

Everyone makes money: the agency, the person who pimps out for the service, the person who referred the girl to the agency, and the taxi driver. [REDACTED] Low street activity earnings are about \$1,000 per week for the pimp, but in massage parlours, one girl can earn as much as \$10,000 per month for the owner. [REDACTED]

Throughout the province hospitality such as hotels, bars and restaurants are common locations for sex-trade activity. Some of this activity may be conducted without the knowledge of the owner, manager or staff; other establishments own a piece of the trade and profit from it.

In cities across the country, it is estimated that between 5 to 20 percent of the sex trade takes place on the streets. Almost all Newfoundland and Labrador street sex trade takes place in downtown St. John's. Male and female workers lay claim to corners, parks, doorways, alleys and abandoned businesses. The number and location of people working the street varies throughout the year. Some people work 52 weeks a year, while others only come into town to work on weekends. Some work for a couple of weeks during the summer; others work for an afternoon or whenever a specific economic need arises.

You cannot necessarily recognize someone working on the street by the way they dress, but people accustomed to the trade—those looking to buy sex—can easily identify those who are open for business.

The young girl standing in a porch wearing snow boots and winter coat - she's not just waiting for a bus. You have to be aware and looking, then you can learn who is working. That's how johns figure it out. They cruise by, check out everyone and learn who to approach. ■■■

Women have been in conflict over regular corners, customers and prices, particularly during the Oxycontin phase. Young girls were undercutting the older women to pay for the drug. The older women were upset, "She's taking my business. I can't sell for that price." There was a whole economy being played out on the street. ■■■

Throughout the province, taxi drivers are generally knowledgeable about the sex trade activity in their communities. Certain drivers in the province are well-known for trading sexual services for taxi rides, money or alcohol. Some also have a role in finding the dates.

Industrial work camps are a common location [for] sex trade activity. It's been reported that workers can find notes in their rooms offering extra cleaning services, with two or more prices listed. ■■■

Truck drivers trade rides across the country for sex. ■■■ Young people often travel this way.

The party scene is everywhere. Most communities have at least one party house and much of what goes on involves sexual exploitation, sexual assault and survival sex.

Men will hire women to work at a party all night as means of paying back drug debts. The women are paid in drugs for the night. Young women are drugged and unaware of being abused by several men during a party.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

A biker group in Grand Falls-Windsor recently became part of the Bacchus Club which is a Hell's Angels affiliate. It is also in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. This may have ramifications for the sex trade (in our area) in the near future. [REDACTED] We monitor the biker runs. Female riders are 'the property' of men. They have no value other than entertainment. They are 'meat'. It's really demoralizing. [REDACTED] Biker groups and other gangs are often involved with the business side of the sex trade. The sexual exploitation of girls and women is part of their culture.

In December 2006, The Express published a story about the potential for an emerging pornography industry on the west coast of our province. The following is an excerpt from the article:

... An adult actor named 'Keisha' (less formally, 'Naughty Newfie') has already made two films in this province.

Born and raised in Stephenville, the 24-year-old started exotic dancing at Jack and Jill's in Corner Brook about a year or two ago and took it from there.

"I wasn't really making any money, so when I saw an ad for a bar in Niagara Falls, I went out there," she says.

"I came back to Newfoundland and put my name and profile online for a job in the (adult film) industry, and someone contacted me."

She began working with OSK Productions, an Ontario-based company, and starred in a couple of films - Naughty Newfie: My 1st and Very Naughty Newfie: My 1st.

Both were filmed on location in Stephenville, Corner Brook and Toronto.

... discussed the possibility of setting up a facility in Newfoundland to film material, in turn creating jobs and contributing to the economy ...

It doesn't appear this facility was ever set up, but pornography is certainly made here. There are regular whispers of filming in St. John's. But the biggest pornography scene takes place on the internet. Anyone with a computer, internet access, webcam, cell phone or camera can create and distribute pornography.

Survival Sex

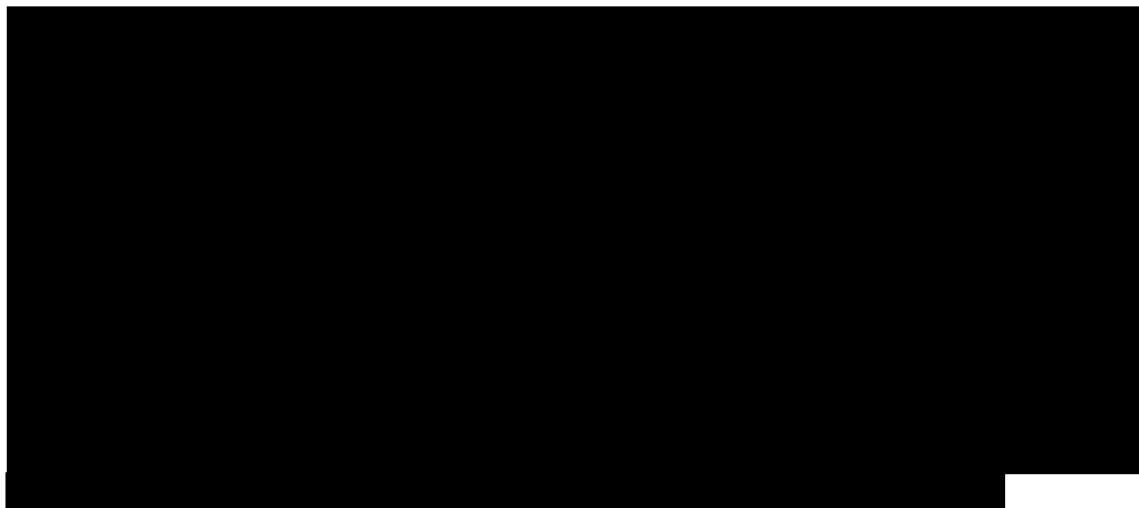
Survival sex is the most predominant form of sex-trade activity. It includes trades for housing, transportation, food, drugs, clothing and cigarettes and it is taking place from St. John's to Port aux Basques, from Gander to the north coast of Labrador.



People do things in their lives in order to survive. They do things in a moment simply to get through something. ■ People who live in poverty trade sex for the products and services that they need. Women of all ages living in extreme poverty will trade sex for cigarettes. There are women with no family members to help and who can't afford cab to the doctor three hours away at \$75 per ride. ■

If a person can't afford the rent, sometimes they can pay the landlord with sex. ■ Some women and girls are trading oral sex for a place to stay and just consider it a bad night. They don't see it as sex work. ■

Trading sex for housing is now referred to as 'couch sex'. Many report that this is a growing problem for young girls and women in rural parts of the province. ■ Middle aged and older women often couch surf in homes and apartments, staying with 'boyfriends' or other 'friends'. Then things get tight and they have to leave and find another place to stay where they are pressured into having sex. They may stay [in one place for] a month or a couple of days before being kicked out. ■





Some women use the money to buy their children the right brand of clothes. They are trying to be the best Moms so their children don't get bullied and leave school. The women need money fast and are limited in how to earn it. ■■■

In rural Newfoundland and Labrador, women [and men] mostly trade sex for drugs, alcohol and/or a place to sleep. There are incidents where there is the exchange of monies. ■■■ Sometimes, women talk so nonchalantly about trading for sex that we wonder whether it can be so prevalent or if women don't know it's an issue. ■■■

Women live with men in what looks like a relationship but is really only for a place to live and food for the children. They say their partner is nice most of the time. Maybe 40 percent of the women, especially those who are involved with the system, are hanging onto spaces and places and people. Many people are paying with their bodies and even end up having babies with the men. And so many women are totally excluded from society. ■■■

For both adults and youth, the lack of housing is a horrible issue in [Labrador community]. People do what they have to do in order to have a place to sleep. Many youngsters are having babies so they'll get a house. ■■■

For so many women, we can say, "If she just had a place, she would have been safe last night." ■■■ Homelessness and couch surfing puts people at great risk of being sexually assaulted. They feel guilty about intruding into the home where they are staying and do not report the assault. Living in a boarding home is dangerous. ■■■ Women move to our community thinking things will be better for them. It's a hub for services so she should get help. But if the only place you have to sleep at night is a boarding house with a door that doesn't lock and you're surrounded by others, you are not safe. ■■■

Women stay in relationships all the time simply because they have nowhere else to go. Women who need to leave these men won't come to the shelter because there is no housing for them to go to afterwards. They just have to go back home. It gets more difficult for them to go back every time, so they stop coming to the shelter even for a break. Some will call regularly to talk, but they won't come to stay. ■■■

When children are involved, fathers can use them as powerful bargaining chips. A custodial father of a child will force the mother to have sex if she wants to see the

child. The father of a child will withhold money unless the mother of child has sex with him. The father of a child will threaten to take the child unless the mother has sex with him and his friends. ■■■

Survival sex also involves women being pressured to have sex by males in authority. "If you don't do this, I have information that I can share that will negatively impact your life". For example, they will be threatened with losing access to their children. ■■■

Trading for beer goes on regularly. Some women are banned from certain clubs for giving blow jobs under the table. They also trade blow job for bingo money and money for cigarettes. ■■■ They will say, "I know I don't have to do it, but it would be nice to have money for some smokes, a coffee." ■■■

A woman goes to a bar, then goes home with a man for drugs or a bed to sleep in. [It's a matter of] safety or security versus being on the street for the night. A woman's partner asks her to have sex with his brother as a favour. A woman does it to get a bit of extra money. A woman does it as a way of doing her part for the family or relationship. For example, in order to survive in the relationship she does what he tells her to do so that he doesn't become abusive. Once a woman does it once, it's held over her head. We don't usually hear whether they have children; they stay quiet about that. There's enough stigma associated for the women without the extra stigma of being a mother who is involved in the sex trade. ■■■

Much of the (rural activity) is drug dealers trading sex for drugs with specific individuals. ■■■ If a woman is extremely addicted to drugs, she needs to get some or she will get sick. A man will offer to connect her to a dealer but she has to do what [he wants] first. ■■■ Boyfriends exploit young women by asking them to have sex with friends in exchange for his drugs. ■■■ People who engage in trading sex for drugs or alcohol often don't think of it in these terms. These women and men are simply doing what they have to do in order to feed their addiction.

Trading is not restricted to illegal drugs and alcohol. Some doctors trade pills for sex favours. ■ Doctors and other health care providers act as drug dealers. They may ramp up a woman who is already addicted. They are predatory and will selectively target very vulnerable women. ■ Trading sex for drugs causes embarrassment and guilt. The threat of exposure can ruin a girl for life. It's a big circle. ■

Over the past 10 years approximately 10 young women, aged 16 to 20, have passed through (shelter), staying until they have enough money or a means to get to the next town. They usually don't have a connection to the province... One young woman got off the boat and was heading east; she didn't even recognize this is an island. Most of them are heading to St. John's. They come with a small bag or nothing at all. We do our best with them. Our gut reaction is that they are drug seeking, trying to find a way to get their next fix. It's difficult to figure out how they get from northern Alberta to (here). They stay in homeless shelters, hitch rides, take the bus. We've arranged for some to stay at (another shelter) but others just disappear; they go out and simply don't come back. They stay notionally for 2 days; get showers, meals, clothes and toiletries. The women all give a story that fits the (shelter) mandate. They don't seem to be on their own. This could be a cheap way for men to move women in, out and around the province. ■

Youth Sexual Exploitation

“Currently, the sexual exploitation of youth is no one's mandate. It's no one's responsibility. We have to change this. They are our children. How can you not care?” ■

“Nobody cares. Nobody wants to know. No one wants to talk about it. They are screwing our children. It's dirty and deep and affects everybody.” ■

We have seen really vulnerable, impressionable youngsters working at [strip club]. ■ Youth are preyed upon, lured, groomed, seduced, bought and sold. They are involved with all of the activities known to the adult sex trade, including the commercial sex trade and survival sex. They are working the streets, strip clubs, massage parlours and escort services. Every youth who works in the industry or trades sex for survival is sexually exploited. Every adult who buys sex from them is committing a sexual offense.

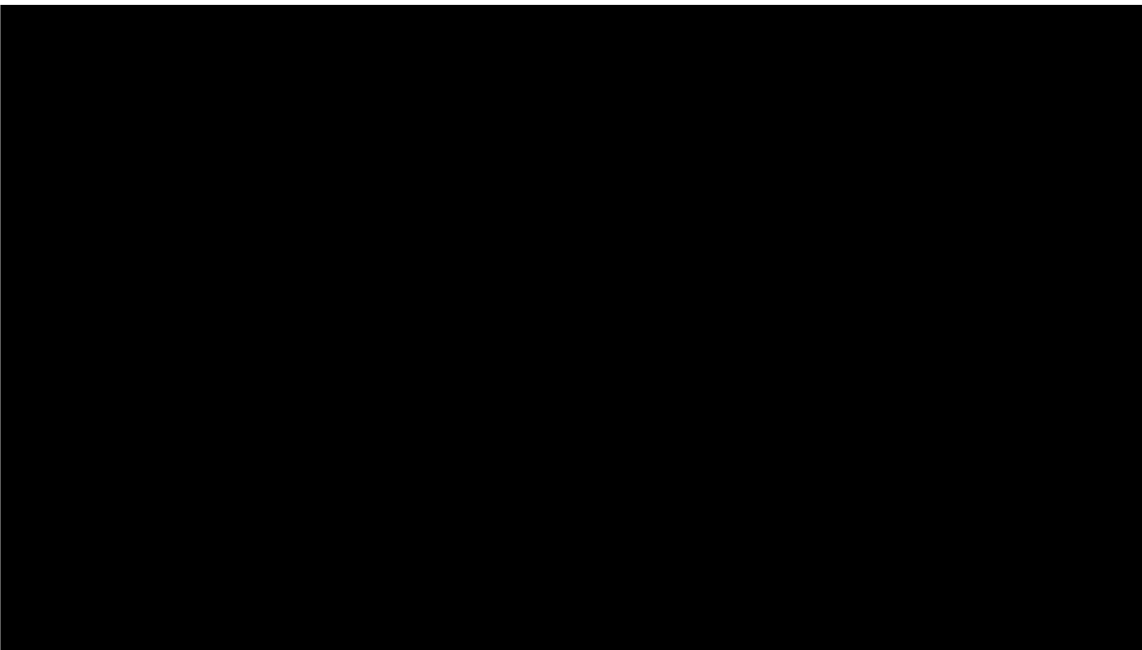
Exploitation takes place everywhere. Recently, a group of agencies filled a white board with known sites within 10 minutes. ■ Men use the court house as a place for scouting and luring youth. ■ Children and youth are exploited in nearly every

location you can imagine: private homes, busses, malls, schools, ball fields, parks, party houses, recreation centres, community centres and shelters.

So many young people are being violated all the time. They're good people and the situation is not getting any better for them. One summer at 7:30 in the evening, 24 guys and girls were working Duckworth Street. Many are smart, feisty survivors. Many start working at an early age. They trade for drugs and don't know they are working. They are beat up and robbed. The guys don't want to use condoms. It takes courage. Every time they get into a car, they could disappear. ■■■

Others have 'boyfriends' who beat them black and blue, threaten them, take their clothes and force them to have sex with other men. Some of the purchasers drive by group homes looking for the girls. They pick them up and bring them back a half hour later. This includes men in their 50s driving nice cars. ■■■

Some [young women] are picked up at the [centre] by men in expensive cars. Young women use the internet site to hook up. Then they get ready in the washroom to the best of their ability doing their makeup and changing their clothes. The men pick them up and drop them back when they're finished. When the internet site was up and running, two or three young women were there every day from Monday to Friday. ■■■



Some youth are let down by everyone, including their families, communities and agencies. They end up on their own and lost.

[REDACTED]

Many young women over 16 years are involved with survival sex. They leave [group home] and drift, couch-surfing and trading sex for a place to stay, food, etc. Girls are looking for something: excitement, a sense of belonging, money, being 'cool'. Girls who aren't connected with (program staff) can be drawn to the others who are involved with the sex trade. [REDACTED] We are seeing a lot of this, particularly with the 16 to 18 year old group. They are doing what they have to do in order to survive. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Both men and women are involved with exploiting our youth.

[REDACTED]

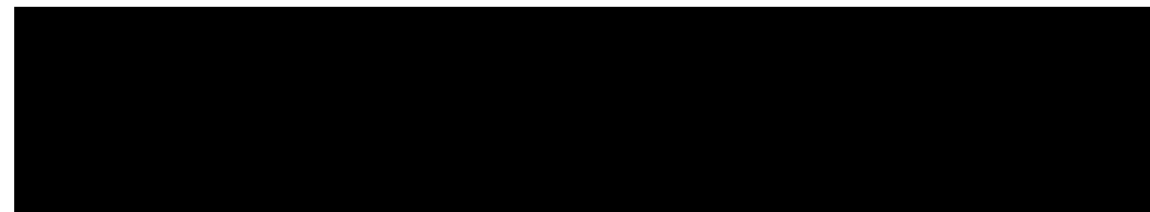
It's much harder to find out who the boys and men are. They are not allowed to be victims. There is great reluctance for them to come forward and say they are victims. Everything about them is threatened by this, including their masculinity. They are doubly victimized. They looked like their soul was dead. None came forward purposely. There is great shame in being sexually abused. "Oh my god, am I gay? Did I participate in it? I was a participant!" But the basic concept of a 14-year-old boy is he will get an erection if he rubs up against an elephant. ■■■ The men usually start working as runaways. ■■■

Adults will target youth who have disabilities. They will also seek youth who have been drinking.



Men will buy alcohol for underage kids and then assault the youngsters when they are alone with them. They will also assault kids and women when they are passed out. ■■■ There is a fair percentage of date rape. Youth experiment with drugs and alcohol then wake up unaware of what happened but knowing something is wrong. She may have been a victim of multiple rapes during the night. Their potential for future victimization is also increased once this happens. ■■■

The cycle of exploitation does not end with adults: many young people, having learned how to take advantage of others by witnessing it or having it done to them, will exploit other youth.





The Voice of Experience

■ Key Informant ■





Internet Child Exploitation

How big is this problem in our province? Statistically speaking the province of Newfoundland and Labrador has more incidents of internet facilitated child sexual abuse material trafficking per capita than any other province or territory in Canada.

The truth is there is someone in everybody's life that watches child porn. If you walk down the street, you have just seen 4 or 5 men involved with child porn.

People think child porn is simple photos. We need to tell them that it includes full grown men's penises inside a 6-month-old baby girl, a 3-year-old girl being raped in every orifice, and a man wearing a clown mask while he rapes a little child.

Internet child exploitation is wrought with photos and videos of sexually degraded children. The content of child pornography images and stories are horrendous. The children who are victimized by these predators are harmed irrevocably.

Most cannot imagine what pedophiles do to children, and what they make children do with each other. Those who can and do imagine it are busy creating, purchasing and trading these images.

The police gather statistics on IP addresses where people are downloading or making child pornography available to others. Between March 28 and April 28, 2011, the top 100 worst offenders by IP address were identified in the following communities:

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Badger | Dildo | Port Albert |
| Baie Verte | English Harbour West | Portugal Cove |
| Bay Roberts | Gander | Springdale |
| Brigus | Harbour Grace | St. John's |
| Cambellton | Greens Harbour | Torbay |
| Carbonear | Happy Valley | Twillingate |
| Channel-Port Aux Basques | Lewisporte | Wabush |
| Clareville | Mount Pearl | Winterton |
| Corner Brook | | |

Most of the [internet] exploitation is done by men. They are always trading images. They travel in circles on the internet trying not to get caught. They have friends they trade with who entice them to get another victim to exchange with others. This is a big time for pedophiles online. They also do this for profit. Child porn is a multi-million-dollar business. It's reported to take 3 months to process a credit card payment on a porn site. The money goes all the way to the top of the chain. If a porn site is shut down one day, it will open somewhere else the next. You can get to the new site in a minute if you're looking for it. They commonly use sites like Limewire to share child porn with each other. Predators also use online gaming as a way to meet children and youth. Games like X-Box, PlayStation, and World of Warcraft can turn nasty. Any virtual world like Second Life can be used by predators to find innocent kids looking to play. It's like a guy using a van and offering a kid some candy or asking if she or he wants to see a puppy. Kids who won't talk to strangers in person are talking to strangers online every day. [REDACTED]

While many make, view, and trade child pornography, others use the internet in other ways to sexually exploit youth.

The anonymity of the internet allows predators to be disguised and prey upon the sexual curiosity of kids. This introduces us to a whole new group of victims. The predators pose online as young girls or boys. They engage the kids in chat groups then move them to messenger and private chats. One predator captured video of [REDACTED] engaging in sex acts. He then [REDACTED] and lured another [REDACTED]. Once she was lured in, he became progressively more aggressive and, ultimately, threatening. It's the same as having someone come into the child's bedroom and force her to make a video. Some kids will run to Mom, others will do what they're forced to do and keep quiet. [REDACTED]

There are men who live in the same neighbourhood as the victims and men who will fly to Newfoundland and Labrador from Australia. [REDACTED] Groomers use all their resources

to engage in child pornography and other forms of sexual exploitation. It becomes all-consuming. It's a full-time career. They become addicted to it as a lifestyle. They can have 16 mgs of catalogued images and videos. [REDACTED]

Predators are anywhere in the house where there is a computer - the living room, bedroom, basement - and they are luring youngsters. [REDACTED] It is incredible what's going on. Girls take their clothes off while talking to a man [they don't know]. The guys are controlling the webcams remotely and capturing their images. [REDACTED] We think we are safe, but the danger is everywhere and any youth with a computer is at risk. [REDACTED]

Parents and kids need to truly understand the dangers of internet luring. All children are vulnerable to this at some point in their development. [REDACTED]

Most of the time, people make porn using family members. It's rare for them to use someone outside the family. They take an order from people online to do certain things with the children. And the cropping of images is a huge issue across the world as we are seeing more and more of this happening. The hardest thing to fight in court is explaining how the child identified in the picture was not the one being assaulted. The judges just sometimes do not seem to understand that it is two children being victimized. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

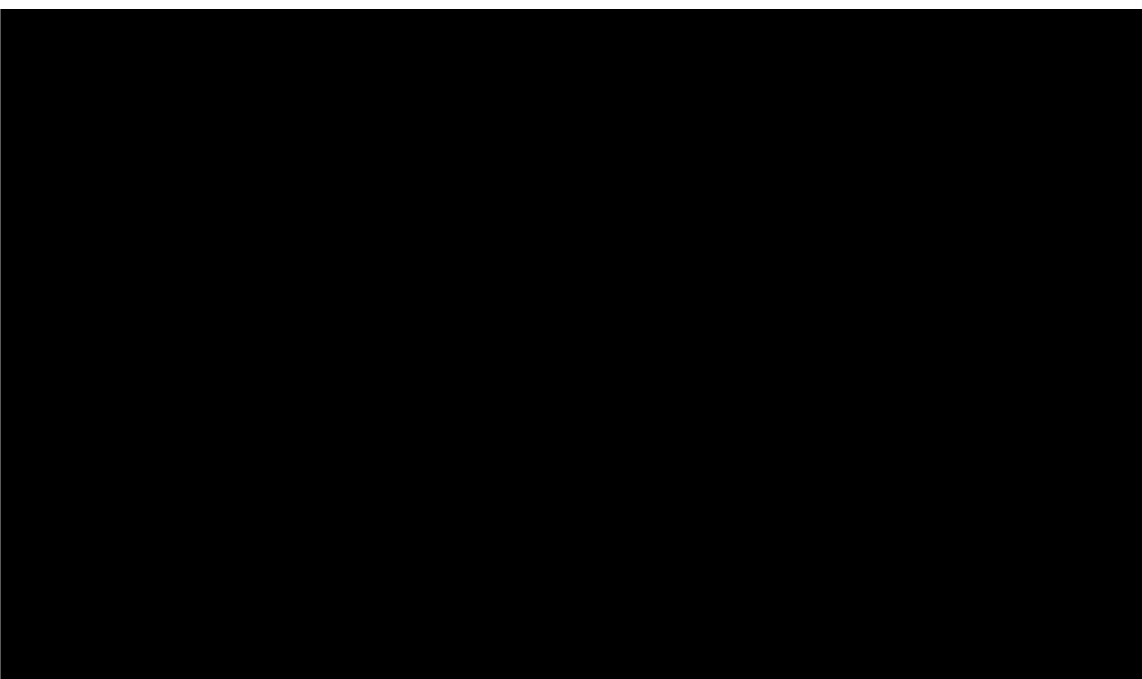
I don't think anyone can go on Facebook without some man trying to hook up with you. There are so many creepers and perverts. Out of nowhere, one of them will ask you to give him a blow job. There's so much internet luring and so many photos out there. I wish there were no computers. Key Informant [REDACTED]

With child porn, photos are the big thing now, along with videos, Facebook postings and photos from videos. A predator will lure a youth into an online relationship and then use threats and coercion to get them to engage in specific sex acts, remove their clothes, or meet them in person and sexually assault them. The suspect could be in Labrador and the victim could be in the [United States]. Predators will capture webcam images often without the knowledge of the victim. They get their victims to do more and more on camera by threatening to expose them to their parents or others: It's blackmail. [REDACTED]

Predators invest great amounts of time and energy to create conditions that foster exploitation.

Some of the men are more forward in their grooming. They tell the kids they have no problem with age, but they'll say, "You're too young for me/this." They'll tell the kids that, "I'd never do that to you." The men test the boundaries and move forward gradually as the kids lower their own boundaries. The men almost belittle the kids. The kids are looking for validation, [and] the men will tell them they are too young or can't do [the sex act]. The kids value friendship, so the men use the threat of losing a friend to move in on them. [REDACTED]

The 11- to 14-year olds comprise the biggest group. Some of the 11- to 12-year-old female victims had a degree of cognitive impairment. They are located anywhere in the province; there is no pocket of activity. Family dynamics can be an issue, but victims are from both good homes and broken homes. We see a lot who have single, working parents. Some of the girls lack a degree of intellect. They are well mature physically, but have an innocence about them in their ability to tell right from wrong. [REDACTED]



Cultural changes in the use of video and file sharing have increased the likelihood of sexual exploitation.

Kids are much more comfortable sharing information and photos. Many youth think it is okay to put themselves out there with photos and videos. Victims can be the more confident youth; this is a whole new group of kids that require a different level of grooming. [REDACTED]

Some youth think it is a fun thing to do. They're only going to do it one time and they experience the same anonymity as the predator, which brings down their boundaries. For a lot of them, they don't see any consequences. They have no knowledge that their photos are out there being traded by men. Randomly adding friends on Facebook can have serious consequences. One young victim added a 51-year-old male suspect; for her it was a real relationship. Parents who hand their children a laptop and tell them to go entertain themselves are creating conditions for them to become victims. [REDACTED]

Youth are sexting porn pictures of each other, then using the photos for blackmail. They are posting highly graphic pictures and videos of themselves and their friends. This is very interactive and socially accepted among peers. [REDACTED] They will use the threat of posting the photos if one of them tries to break off the relationship. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

It seems, in high school, every party has one intoxicated girl kissing and feeling up another girl with a couch full of boys egging them on. Photos are taken and put up on social network sites. People don't go to the police, but they do try to delete the photos—but, of course, once they are posted, they're up and gone. [REDACTED]

Sexting is becoming ridiculous. Girls use it against other girls to bully them. A girl took a photo of another girl in the change room [REDACTED] She sent it to everyone at school. [REDACTED] I hear stories from every community in the region. It's increasingly common. 'Upskirting' is happening all the time with photos sent to everyone else's phone. Girls do it almost as a joke and guys send the photos to their buddies. Guys use the photos as a threat, wielding power and control over the girls demanding that they not break up with them. All this activity makes a person very susceptible. You can't get your image back once it's out there. Six months later, someone is buying and selling the photo. [REDACTED]

Human Trafficking for the Purposes of Sex

Trafficking in human beings has been taking place since the beginning of time. However, it has only recently become a crime. In 2002, Canada's Immigration and Refugee Protection Act was amended to include the offense of Trafficking in Persons. The Criminal Code of Canada did not include the offense of human trafficking until 2005. A Canadian reference guide to human trafficking was developed for law enforcement personnel at that time. The first National Human Trafficking conference was held in March 2011. Participants from Newfoundland and Labrador included the RNC, RCMP, Department of Justice and community agencies.

A working definition of human trafficking was developed in 2000, during a United Nations conference held in Palermo, Italy. It is included in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. Canada is one of 117 signatory countries that committed themselves to preventing human trafficking, prosecuting traffickers, and assisting victims. Under the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, human trafficking takes place when an individual recruits, transports, transfers, harbours or receives people by means of deception, fraud, coercion, abuse of power, payment to others in control of the victim, threats of force or abduction for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced labour/services, removal of organs, servitude, slavery or practices similar to slavery.

Human trafficking is both a recent offense and a deeply hidden activity. Over the course of this research, little was learned about this activity in Newfoundland and Labrador, with the exception of the domestic trafficking of people working in the sex trade and potential risks for temporary foreign workers.

No doubt it's all taking place but these individuals aren't seen. They are powerless. They are not allowed to talk to anyone. They have no money or freedom. They are kept invisible with fear. They are owned. [REDACTED] Some service providers in the province have worked with survivors of domestic trafficking while others suspect it is occurring.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The club circuit includes Halifax, Moncton, Montreal and other locations in Quebec and Ottawa. Some young women weren't sure where they had been or where they were. They are met by controllers who escort them to another place. While on the circuit they have a nice place to live, designer clothes, make-up and hair stylists—anything they need to help them make money—but everything else is taken away. [REDACTED]

There is clearly domestic trafficking taking place on the strip and escort circuit out of other provinces. The women are brought here and picked up... They live together in an apartment or home while they are here. The businesses prefer to have them work in the province outside their place of origin in order to control them. They are coerced, threatened, addicted. These are the three tricks to keep them working. [REDACTED] Some years ago, the owner of [strip club] trapped some women in the club claiming they owed him money. They contacted the [police] who helped them get all their belongings, got them out of the club and onto a flight out of out of the province. There may have been an element of human trafficking involved as well as confinement. [REDACTED]

We hear about it taking place. We get calls from women who are helping other women who are 'away' and in risky situations. A couple of women have called to talk about young women in their families who have disappeared. The young women had been on the internet all the time prior to disappearing. We hear there's a concern that women have been taken out to sea. [REDACTED]

An emerging area of concern is the potential risk for exploitation that may exist for people who come to Newfoundland and Labrador under the Federal Temporary Foreign Worker Program.

We are seeing a large population of female workers from the Philippines working in the hotels and food establishments like [hospitality services]. There are likely more than 100 in the area; 95 % of the kitchen staff and greeters are from there. They are being brought in by agencies as a part of the migrant worker program. They have to work for the company for a period of time and may be working side jobs as well. They may be at risk of different forms of exploitation. [REDACTED] Domestic servitude includes nannies and caregivers, who are often treated poorly. [REDACTED] Not only could foreign workers be exploited for their labour, they could very well be at risk of sexual exploitation.

Key Informant [REDACTED]

The Federal Government is promoting the Foreign Worker program to businesses ... The presentation was all well and good, and it seems great. But there was no accountability piece included about how [foreign workers] would be treated - who they will go to if they have problems - and who's going to monitor the accountability to uphold their human rights. They are governed under the labour laws of the country. I could quit my work and make a complaint, but they can't make a complaint or quit because, even if they know their rights, at the end of the day they really want to be in Canada, working. If your employer is the person in control of your whole life, you are at risk and vulnerable.

At the end of the presentation, one business leader said to others, "They loves working[...] They could work 70 or 80 hours a week and you could pay them for 40 hours. And you can put 4 or 5 in one house and you don't have to pay much." There was no reaction from anyone, but this identifies a clear opportunity for exploitation.

The Foreign Worker Program is growing in Labrador and it's a whole new place our province is headed to and another realm of education. The program is being pushed on business but there is no piece in the presentation that identifies the rights of workers and ways to monitor those rights. This ball is totally in someone's court. Who's providing the accountability piece and protecting the people who are coming to the province?

We are not talking about new machines or the money to pay for them; we're talking about people's lives.

The Buyers

**“ We could make men wear signs saying,
“I bought a blow job for \$5.00.” ”** ■

There would be no sex trade without the demand side of the equation. This story really begins with the men and women who pay to sexually assault children or have sex with adults. Who are they?

Although anybody can be a buyer, the vast majority are men. Some women and couples also buy sex, but they are much more hidden.

You'd be surprised who the customer is. ■ The ones who cruise the street trade are men with very nice vehicles. ■ It's a risky business for customers, especially those with a public profile. ■

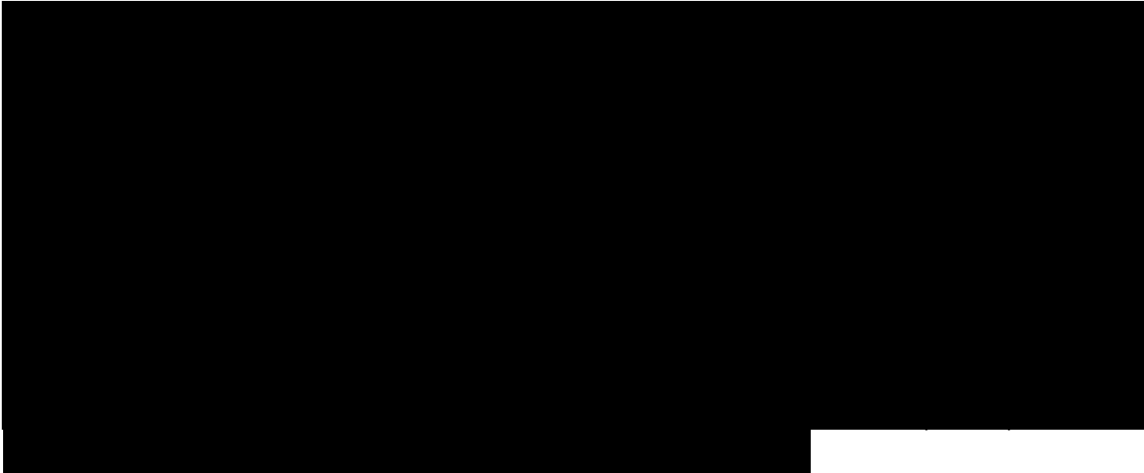
It's men from all walks of life. It's anybody, all ages, social classes and incomes. It's rich men, clergymen, doctors, youth workers, men living in bed-sitters, middle-class men, businessmen, average guys, out-of-town travellers, lawyers, judges, sheriff's officers, police officers, correctional officers, teachers, politicians, and bureaucrats. There's no specific demographic. The buyers are all ages and means; from a 70 year old widower to young married men with children.

Dirty old men drive around the community, stopping young girls and offering them sex for money. ■

■
In St. John's, there is an acceptance of strip clubs, escort services and massage parlours that surprises me. There is acceptance on every level. Legitimacy is given to it by men; it's very much part of their world. ■ Men laugh about drugs and strippers. ■ The marginalization of women is mainstreamed and normalized. ■ Regular guys say they are doing a woman a favour by going to the strip bar where she works because they are helping put food on her table or helping her go to university. ■

There is no profile for the guys with child pornography, except that it's only been men so far. All kinds of guys are involved, including respectable married man with no kids, an older alcoholic who lives alone in poverty, and a retired RCMP officer ■
■ The guys are 13 to 60 years old. The younger predators are boys and girls posting photos of their girlfriends and boyfriends online. The girls are spiteful and revengeful and the boys are playing a nasty game. Once the photo is out there ain't no way of getting it back. The older men are luring, threatening, making child porn

and committing sexual assaults. It could be any man. It's a completely anonymous medium. In some cases, parents and step-parents have ongoing knowledge of the abuse. The mother may have knowledge of what's going on, but doesn't stop it. ■■■



[People] get in trouble for selling sex and are called dirty hookers and whores. We punish them for being in tough situations but we don't tackle the criminal activity behind [them] like the club owner. Even the police don't always feel it is fair. ■■■ People who exploit youth and buy the services of adults who are working in the sex trade consider [those who they buy services from] to be disposable. That's the thing - they are garbage. ■■■

It's not about sex. It's about having power and control over someone else. ■■■ These guys [who buy children for sex] are criminals and they need to be in the system. They are sex offenders and we need to stop the behaviour. ■■■

The Voices of Experience

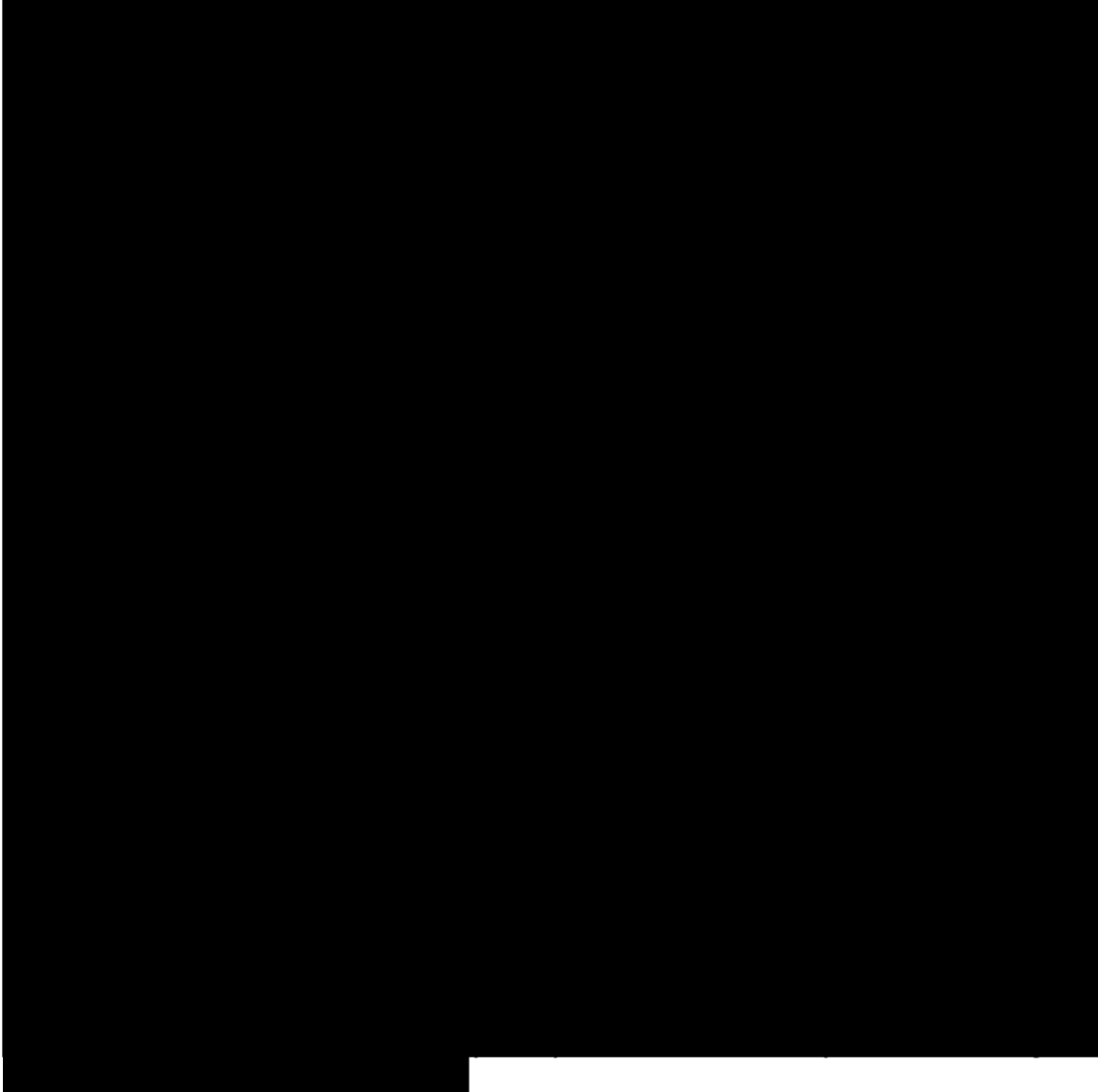
■ Key Informant ■

More people are buying sex than people realize. The buyers are mostly men, but the group includes a few women and some of them are extremely abusive to young men. Those who are have the same attitude as abusive men: "I'm paying you and you will do whatever the hell I want."

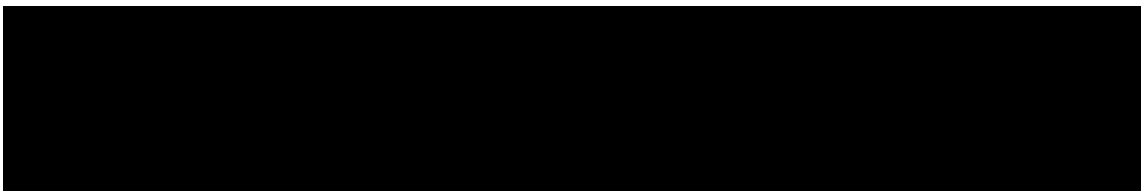
Some women who buy sex are coming from abusive relationships and are going through nasty divorces. They want to buy from someone who is less likely to hurt them than those they care about. Buying from a professional is safer. Other women are professionals who don't want any commitment and don't want to worry about someone getting attached to them.

People who pay for the service feel they have both power over you and permission to do whatever they want [to you].

■ **Key Informant** ■



■ **Key Informant** ■



■ Key Informant ■

[REDACTED]

■ Key Informant ■

When I was with Street Reach, we worked in pairs with cell phones and safety protocols. In the dead of winter, while the volunteers are wearing coats, hats, mitts, and backpacks, one guy kept slowing down and circling us [for three hours]. I knew there was an intention behind it. I felt this could turn into a bad situation. I saw [the men] as predators - stalking, staring and slowing their vehicles[...] It felt like we were being preyed upon. One night a guy driving a truck followed us up the road. We agreed never to walk up that road again. It felt very creepy. Even still, when I think about it, I get the creeps.

■ Key Informant ■

[REDACTED]

Other Exploiters

“ Could we charge someone with murder if they are prostituting a child who gets a disease and then dies from it? ” ■■■

Exploiters use seduction, drugs and violence to manipulate youth and adults. Pimps sell How-To books in mainstream book stores. Men who sexually abuse children share information about how to groom their babies to be sexually compliant.

Until we stop the predators and change the culture that does little to dissuade them, sexual exploitation will propagate.

The Pimps

If you want to buy sex, there are people willing to sell it.

[In St. John's,] pimps are recruiting all the time, looking for 14-, 15-, 16-year-olds. They are local and from away; women and men. ■■■

Women and men sex trade workers are a commodity to pimps. They are analogous to a kilo of coke to a drug dealer. ■■■ They are better than drugs, because they can be sold many times over.

Pimps target their victims carefully and use indoctrination strategies to break down their defenses until the victims will defend the pimps, claiming, "He's good to me." They use drugs, coercion, embarrassment, and threats to involve little sisters or kidnap five-year-old brothers, to ensure people keep working for them. A girl who is tricking for a pimp is brainwashed and coerced into working, or addicted to drugs—and he is controlling the supply. ■■■

[A pimp lays] down a solid foundation where he meets all her needs to belong, to be taken care of, admired and loved. He buys her clothes, a puppy, a laptop and drugs. He gives her a car, takes her to parties[...] until he is her god and can do no wrong. Then, they gently—or violently—lead women to understand they must work to pay back money. ■■■

A lot of violence also comes from the older men who groom and pimp girls and women. He has to get her addicted so she'll work for drugs for both of them. If she screws up, he will hold out on the drugs. He may decide to become jealous about the men she has sex with, even though he sent her out in the first place. She has to earn the money, but can't like it or be good at it[...] She can't do anything right. He will go in a rage and beat her. ■■■

The men are marking their women. Previously, they used India ink, needle and thread.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Young men from out of [the] province come and stay for a month or so. They are the nicest kind of fellows, just travelling and needing a place to stay. They have a nice car and visible means of support. They come back periodically[...] When they leave, one or more young women go with them to Halifax or Montreal, presumably to work in the trade. [REDACTED]

During the interviews, no information came to light regarding pimps operating outside of the west coast of the province or metro St. John's. That is not to say they don't exist. Where the demand exists, someone supplies it.

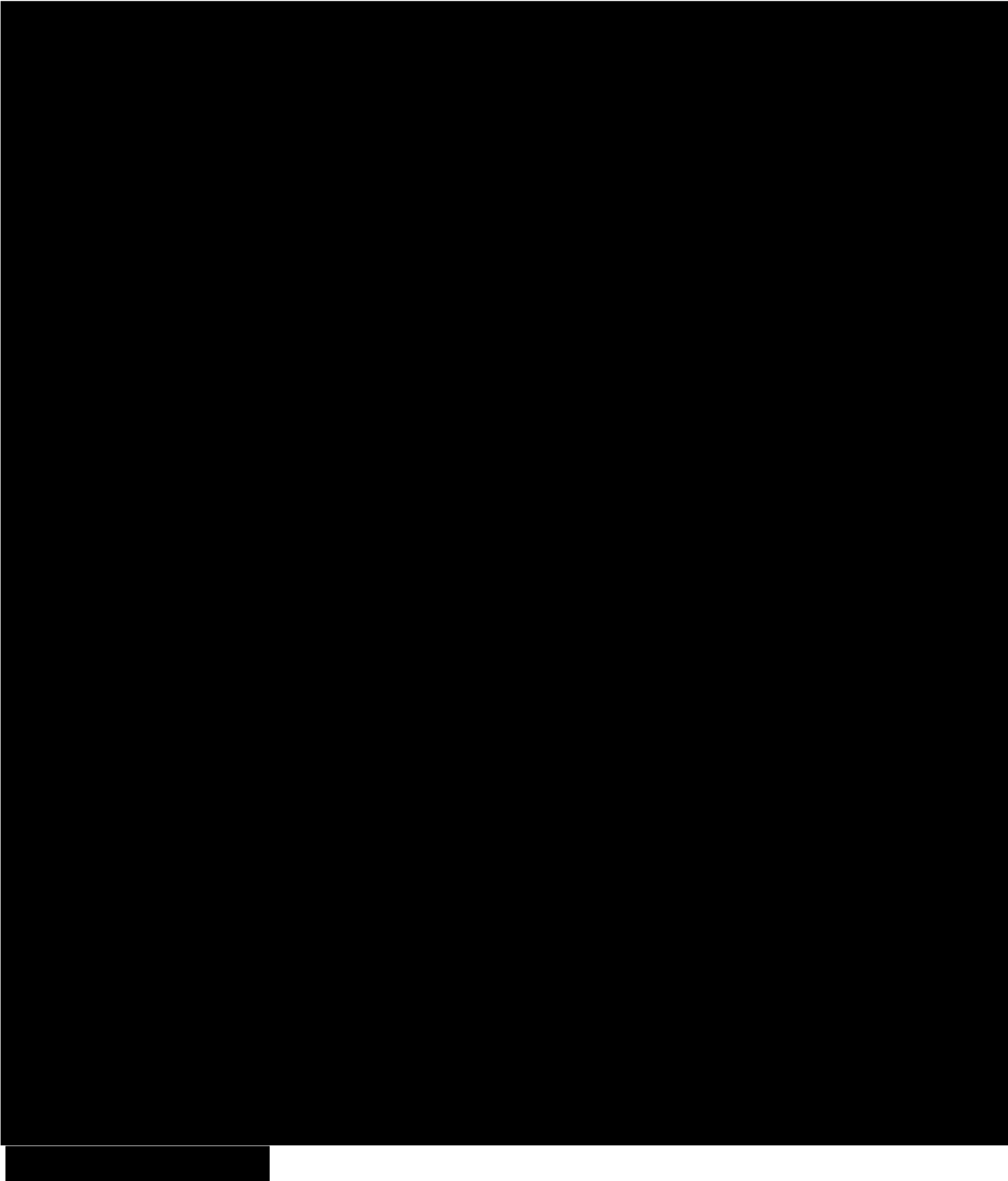
Pimps: in a locked room they can talk to the 100th power. Their mentality is to own and control women; they view women as disposable and despicable. Women who work in the trade were usually groomed when they were young girls. They don't know how to act with men other than sexually. This is one of the main effects of the grooming. It's the only behaviour they learned. There is an increase in prostitution and violent sexual assaults as a result of intergenerational activity in this [rural] area. There is a high level of sexual assault and a large number of girls and women have been groomed and have several issues to deal with. (For many) the grooming process begins with sexual abuse in childhood. They are gradually moved to drug and alcohol addiction and prostitution. As they get older, the girls become dependent on a man who is anywhere from five to 20 years older. He supplies the alcohol, drugs, sex and violence. [REDACTED]

Young people become acquainted with people who want to exploit them. They exercise control over them in a series of stages: coercion, violence, drugs, alcohol, separating and isolating them from the people they were close to. The Oxycontin files highlighted the sexual exploitation of youth. Some migrate to St. John's from other parts of the country. [REDACTED]

The people who work for pimps are required to recruit others. If a girl or woman has recruited others for her pimp, she has been a part of exploiting others and dealing with this will be an important part of her healing. [REDACTED]

The Voices of Experience

■ Key Informant ■



[REDACTED]

■ Key Informant ■

[REDACTED]

■ Key Informant ■

[REDACTED]

The Heavies

[REDACTED]

There are head prostitutes on the street. They are tough. ■

The Businesses

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Family

[REDACTED]

It can be mothers, fathers, grandfathers, brothers, and sisters. [REDACTED]

Fathers pass their daughters around as a toy to many people. Mothers send their daughters out to work, saying, "We got no groceries." [REDACTED]

If they don't bring back whatever the men need, they are beaten. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Some mothers who are involved in the sex trade see it as a viable form of employment that meets a need. If it's good enough for Mom, it's good enough for their daughters. Some recognize their daughters can make more money, or [the mothers] are tired of the work themselves. Some mothers and daughters work together. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Boyfriends

Some women are in abusive relationships. When the guy craves drugs he will ask her to go and trade sex. [REDACTED]

We have no doubt girls are being lured from every community by 'boyfriends', but we don't hear about it or have any knowledge [in rural areas]. [REDACTED]

Many slightly older boyfriends, between the age of 17 and their early 20s, pimp their girlfriends. These young men have a position of power [in the relationship] and the young women earn the money for all their needs. The young women are also more connected to community services for extra food, clothing, personal supplies, etc. Young women are working really hard to support them.

There can be a level of caring and love, as they define it, in the relationship. It's not as completely cold and one-sided as it is in a pimp/worker relationship, but the relationships are abusive. Some of the young men have very similar backgrounds as the exploited women, including addictions, mental health issues, low income and dysfunctional families. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] They didn't magically arrive and end up in the sex trade. [REDACTED]

The Dealers

Bootleggers and drug dealers trade sex for their goods. Some men send their wives and girlfriends to trade for the goods. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Landlords

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Violence

The sex trade takes place in an extremely dangerous and highly violent environment. Workers are constantly exposed to weapons, abuse and control. [REDACTED]

The most dangerous place to be is on the street. People go missing and are dumped on the side of the road. Who will ever miss a street kid? [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

But even those with survival skills experience violence in the sex trade.

Some [of the johns] are or become violent. A guy will latch onto his regular prostitute and decide it is a relationship of sorts. He becomes too attached, jealous and violent. [REDACTED]

Date rape drugs and exploitation go hand in hand. [Girls and women] wake up in bed with someone they don't know. They don't know what happened and are in a big panic. They don't know if he used a condom or not. [REDACTED]

[Those who are exploited] don't have a voice at all. They are beaten, put out to work, threatened and experience real violence. Don't treat them like mannequins to be abused and called whores. They are somebody's daughter - somebody's child. But we don't care about them. We devalue them and turn a blind eye. [REDACTED]

Nobody chooses to be a victim. Everyone's looking for the better parts of life, whatever that means to them. [REDACTED]

The Voices of Experience

[REDACTED] Key Informant [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Key Informant [REDACTED]

■ Key Informant ■

[REDACTED]

■ Key Informant ■

People who work on the street may have a 20-year history of being beaten, abused and having pennies thrown at them by strangers. ■

■ Key Informant ■

[REDACTED]

The Case of a Serial Rapist

■ Key Informant ■

The scene has changed in the past 30 years. The women used to work on their own. They were older then; they weren't in their teens. Most of them were in their 20s and 30s and they were more independent in their work. Today, there is more violence. It is more coercive and there are different types of violence. Something about it is more dangerous.

There are young women missing from St. John's. We don't know what happened, but there is no doubt that some [...] have been murdered.

In the 1980s and 1990s, a serial rapist was operating in downtown St. John's. While doing some work on active and open files of missing young women, I realized someone [later identified as Garrett Young] was targeting young women. He was abducting, beating and raping them. He targeted three groups of women: women who were alone on the street and inebriated; women who had mental disabilities or head injuries; and prostitutes. All of the victims were alone and isolated.

Young forced them into a car, drove them to isolated areas, and beat and raped them.

We talked with prostitutes, but they had trust issues with us and it took a lot of talking to get their confidence and convince them we saw them as victims of crime.

One 19-year-old woman from outside the province was forced into the trade by her boyfriend. She was dancing in a bar and working as a prostitute in St. John's. We arrested her boyfriend for pimping her. We asked him if his girlfriend had problems with any of her clients. He said, "Yes, she was beat up in the fall."

We arranged to talk with her on the parking lot of the old Brittany Inn. Later, she came in for an interview. She gave a statement and assisted with the creation of a composite drawing. The guy had beaten her unconscious and left her in the woods under a tree. She was covered in blood from head to toe. He had swung her by her hair and beat her head off the trunk of the car. It was a vicious beating.

When she came to in the woods, the car came back and she hid in the woods until it was gone. She managed to get to a nearby house and the family helped her get home. The police weren't called. She had no idea where this was but remembered a big power line. We drove her everywhere looking for the place where she had been beaten, and the house. She finally found it. The young daughter in the family [who helped her] kept a diary and she had a note about it that was dated. When we finally got the guy, the composite drawing was like a photo of him.

We put a female officer on the street in an undercover capacity. It was quite a surprise to see the amount of attention she received. Numerous men stopped or slowed down and it was clear to us that they were seeking prostitutes. We had our target under surveillance and had seen him circling the downtown area repeatedly. We wanted to see how he would react to our undercover officer. He did approach her and attempt to entice her into his vehicle.

This was the first DNA case in the province. These were cases of incredible violation. Another victim was treated poorly by the police. She was in a very dark place for many years because of the assault. She was drunk and had no idea who he was, but he was convicted of crimes against her. He was charged circumstantially, but incredible luck was on our side. Although the exhibits were lost, I learned from a family practice physician that a lab technician may have kept samples. He had a vial from her case. Our

warrant netted us a vial with sperm and the crime lab matched it to Young. This shifted her case from one of the weakest to one of the strongest.

By the end of the trial, there were convictions related to seven victims in the case. Two of the victims had been abducted twice. Another had a disability and was involved with drugs and alcohol. He was convicted on all counts against her. This was a defining moment in the life of this victim. He would see her on the street, pull her into his vehicle, take her to St. Philip's, rape and beat her. She had broken bones. He could have killed her or another woman if he had continued.

Young was sentenced to 11 years. [The Crown attorney] had prepared a dangerous offender application. He appealed his sentence, it was rejected and he was declared a dangerous offender. The Supreme Court denied his appeal.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Adults with no history of sexual exploitation who enter the sex trade by choice generally do so for financial reasons. They are simply making a living the best way they can. They pay their bills and look after their children. They don't have addictions and are not involved with any illegal activity. They feel in control and have a fierce sense of independence.

Other adults stumble onto an opportunity to make money they desperately need to pay the heat bill or buy food and clothes for their children. Some are driven to it by addictions. Everyone needs money to survive, and the sex trade provides ready access to cash.

[REDACTED] Most of the women are just doing the best they can with what they've got. [REDACTED]

The only difference between 'us and them' is an accident of birth. We fool ourselves into thinking it couldn't happen to those we know. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I know some adult women who began dancing out of desperation. They needed employment but they had little education and few employment opportunities. The biggest asset was how they looked. Exotic dancing is a powerful reinforcement. Women feel desirable and powerful. They feel they are in control. They never had these feelings before dancing. Sometimes dancing is not overtly abusive. Women earn money and keep some tips. Some adults exercise an element of control over whether to enter or stay in the sex trade. The choice you make can depend on your age and level of self awareness. [REDACTED]

Women [and men] who have been incarcerated have few options post-release and may have addictions that went through the roof while in jail. This can take them into the sex trade. [REDACTED]

A lot of women are running away from home. They never feel they are important or wanted. All sex trade workers are judged. There's little understanding of people who engage in trading sex for money. People see it as a choice without understanding the reality of how hard a choice it is between a cold snow bank or a warm bed. [REDACTED]

University and college students are in a position of privilege but they are also broke. They end up working in strip clubs, massage parlours and as strippers for parties. [REDACTED] One university student is paying her way through school by working the sex trade. She is not eligible for funding, but can pay for four courses by working for one week. She says, "If I have to go out and lie on my back to do it, I will." [REDACTED]

There is a form of sexual barter that is a very historical activity for women in Newfoundland and Labrador. This is not a new issue for us. Women want a bit more money to spend. Some enjoy the activity and find it quite acceptable. For example, over 30 years ago, female post-secondary students from rural communities gained expensive jewellery by trading sex. They seemed to do it as a lark and went on to successful marriages. They felt it was their choice and they liked being with the older men who showed them attention and a 'good time.' [REDACTED]

Then there are the sexually exploited children and youth. They are groomed, abused, raped and exploited. They are bought and sold by adults who steal away their options, their childhood and, in some cases, their future. Some of these children grow up to work in the sex trade as adults.

“The average age of a child's first experience with exploitation is 14.”

“The youngest girl I was aware of was 11 years old.” [REDACTED]

“Girls as young as 12 years old are turning tricks in [rural community].” [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The youngsters have no life skills. They don't know how to do banking, buy groceries, purchase clothes, or rent an apartment. They are dependent on the people who use them. This keeps them trapped. [REDACTED]



The Voices of Experience

Key Informant



Key Informant

I saw a 9-year-old working the streets in Toronto in the 80s.



Even an easy-going kid can get moved a lot in care, back and forth between their parent and different foster homes. You feel disenchanted and the trust isn't there with anyone. Underneath it all, you don't want to get attached to anyone because you may have to move all over again.

A sense of hopelessness comes from too much baggage. You are carrying a really heavy weight all the time. It's an extremely heavy piece of luggage and you had no choice but to carry it. This leads to suicidal thoughts and actions.

When you're young, you can fall through the cracks. You get turned down for help because you don't fit the criteria and you have no money. You can get disenchanted with everything and see the street as an easy way to earn money. Child abuse and exploitation makes you highly vulnerable to the trade.

We need to determine a child or youth's vulnerability to exploitation early. I wholeheartedly resent CYFS for its mandate to only support youth to the age of 16 years. No 16 year old should be on their own living in a bed sitter without supports. We need to help protect them while they're in it and help them get out when they're ready.

Many people have a mentor on the street - not a pimp - but someone who helps them learn what they need to know.

Girls are more likely to work both the street and escort services. Guys are more connected through the street level. Many are honest and safe in their practice.



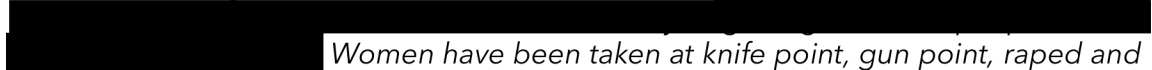
Key Informant

Every person is deserving and people in positions need to know this. No one's life is more important than another.

Children who grow up in safe houses, with good self-esteem and adults who are concerned about them do not end up doing this. The ones who do don't have family, at least not at that time. They are wounded souls.



Women graduate from the street to the massage parlour. It's considered safer and better than being on the street. It's a different scene.

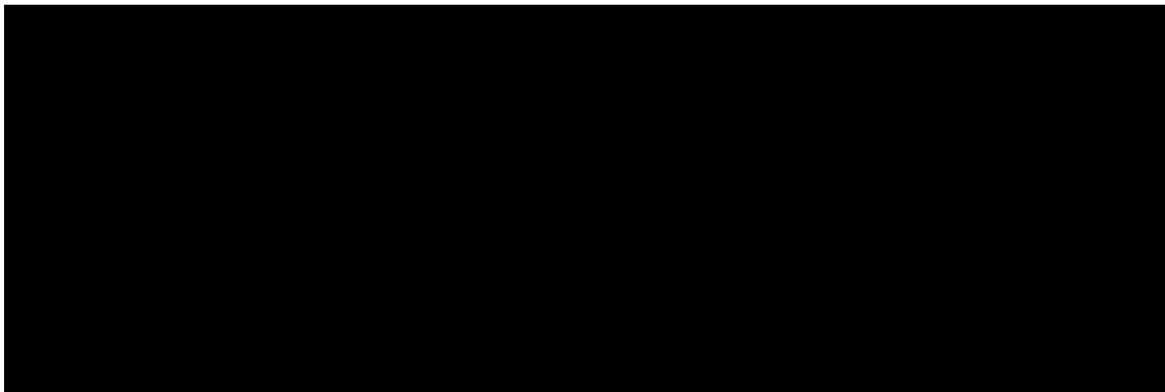


Women have been taken at knife point, gun point, raped and beaten by johns.

No boy or young man wants to tell a women working in a service or program that he sells himself for sex. Gay youth and men are ostracized from gay community if it becomes known they are selling themselves. And straight boys will never admit to it.



Key Informant



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

■ Key Informant ■

[REDACTED]

Section 37.1(a)(b)

REDACTED

REDACTED



Key Informant

Many adults who work in the sex trade were victims of child abuse - then became sexually exploited youth - then became adult sex workers. At what point was sex work a choice for them? When something has been taken away from you, it has no value anymore, so it can feel right to sell it, over and over again. The association of sex with money is deep and workers find it ridiculous to have sex for free.

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]



The Vulnerabilities

~Key Informant

Research points to many factors that increase a person's risk of entering the sex trade or becoming sexually exploited. It is a long list that includes: sexual abuse and other forms of victimization; lack of family support; lack of belonging; isolation; low self-esteem; gender; age; parents affected by generational trauma; family and relationship violence; poverty or economic ability; social and cultural exclusion due to poverty and other factors; mental health issues; learning disabilities; lack of mental health support services; lack of other services; under-education; desiring a better life and facing limited economic opportunities; addictions; substance abuse; lack of awareness or understanding of what sexual exploitation is; lack of housing options; Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder [FASD]; racism; gaps in service provision; and discriminatory policies and legislation.

However, none of these factors are the primary reason a person is sexually exploited. The story does not begin with the person being exploited, it begins with those who seek out children, youth and adults to exploit and a culture that permits this to happen. Without these two factors, no person would ever be exploited, no matter how vulnerable she or he may be.

Although there are vulnerabilities that can increase an individual's risk of exploitation, this is a complex area and any attempt to simplify or reduce it must be resisted. While a single factor can leave one child open to predation, another child may be quite resistant, even in the midst of many factors.

80 percent of exploited youth have a bundle of factors that can include trauma, little or no self esteem, unstable housing, poverty, mental health issues and FASD. They are in a bad place, have no one and feel crappy about being themselves. They are very vulnerable to being lured and then along comes a guy who says all the right things. It doesn't take much. The bright ones understand exactly what happened but feel totally trapped. All have a connection to a guy or other girls. Some sort of solicitation happens. How else would anyone know how to do that?

Family dynamics play a part in creating the conditions that allow exploitation to take place. Many things can prevent or disrupt a parent's ability to become and remain attached to a child, including addictions, mental illness, lack of parenting skills, intergenerational abuse and family violence. These factors can be found in families

with high incomes as well as families living in poverty. While some parents can successfully negotiate their way through these difficulties, others are unable to look after and protect their children. Sometimes these children are taken into care and placed in foster homes.

The youth who are most at risk are those who are kicked out of home, school, and mainstream programming of any sort. No one can hold onto them and everyone starts to let them go. Youth lose their connections and can either be lured into the sex trade or run to it. There are no supports or programs for prevention. ■■■

Most of these youth have chaotic lives. Some are immersed in a world of controllers, violence, drugs and pain. They want to be loved and belong somewhere. Some run away - straight into the arms of exploiters. Many act out their pain: they get in trouble at school, break the law and spend time in group homes and detention centres.

Our community agencies, schools, government services, health care providers, and people working in the justice system know these youth; but many are unaware of the sexual exploitation that runs beneath the surface and affects the behaviours they see.

Over the years, we have labelled them juvenile delinquents, truants, young offenders, runaways, whores, mall rats, sluts, and the town bicycle.

Other youth who are abused and exploited are quiet and withdrawn, ignored and lost. No one recognizes their pain. No one holds out a hand.

Some of these youth do not live through their experiences with exploitation. Most make their way, as best they can.

There is a domino effect. They leave the family early, don't have family support, don't have an education, didn't get the things that could help them become centered adults and this keeps them vulnerable. One of the risk factors is a lack of connection to others. Just one person can make all the difference in a person's life. ■■■

When a youth wants someone to "love 'em, look after 'em, and give them a place to stay", this is what the guys offer the girls. Some girls have a certain vulnerable look. Guys will give them the look; if a girl wants to be loved, she may respond in some way that shows an interest. The girls seek a connection. ■■■ Young women have low self esteem, and desire a better life in the face of limited opportunities. They want to create the ideal family life their mothers could not provide. ■■■

The experience of being sexually exploited is neither simple nor straightforward. Oftentimes, those who are being exploited are also having their needs met, and they can feel as if they are in control and powerful.

[Another] risk factor is this notion that someone's power lies in their ability to have someone else turned on by them sexually. That's not real power at all. That's vulnerability. ■■■ Exploitation and choice are intricately woven together and totally convoluted. Kids should not have to do this; however, they do get some of their needs and wants met. They get the cell phone, fancy shoes, hair styles, attention, all of it. When youth age out and are older, they gain more perspective and can see and understand the consequences. ■■■

[Social Workers] talk to the kids about making poor choices, exercising poor judgment and 'prostituting themselves. Everyone thinks it's a choice, but it's not. Nowhere do they make a choice to do this. The girls (who are exploited) are sweet youngsters who usually have stunted emotional and social growth. The girls aged 15 and 16 are like 12 year olds. The 12 year olds are 7 or 8 years old emotionally. They revert to younger years when something happens that they have to respond to. A lot of them have self-mutilating behaviours. ■■■

These are very articulate young girls. They know what's going on. They are good girls who need support to grow and develop to reach their potential. Most of the girls think, "Nobody cares about me." Girls find it frightening for them to be able to respect themselves. It's the saddest thing, their lack of respect for themselves. ■■■

Boys and girls are very different populations and need very different approaches. They are comparable but not the same. We're also aware of boys who engage in a lot of sexual exploitation with each other in group settings. There seems to be a power and control dynamic within the group: "You need to do this" or "Let me do this to you." It seems based on status within the group. There might be some trading involved, but mostly involves, "This is mine and this is what you gotta do." I'm not aware of a lot of adults exploiting boys. ■■■

We need to dig back and see where the girls are coming from. It's amazing that some of them have come as far as they have. It's really scary when you see their parents. Some women are involved with sex offenders, men who were abusers in their previous relationships. Some of the young people are not practicing safe sex and are getting pregnant and infected with diseases. They don't know how to keep themselves safe or how to parent. The cycle will repeat itself. ■■■

Ongoing physical and sexual abuse can cause significant trauma. 35 percent of children experiencing sexual abuse meet the criteria for post traumatic stress disorder, with behavioural and emotional effects. 58 percent of those experiencing physical and sexual abuse meet the criteria for post traumatic stress disorder. ■■■

When people are sexually abused as children it becomes familiar to them. When something is familiar to us, we gravitate towards it. If you grow up thinking that it is normal, that's your reality. ■■■

Some of the girls and women blame themselves for the sexual abuse they experience, even though it started when they were babies. A woman will say, "By the time I was 15 years old it was my fault. It's like I got a mark on me. When I go out, abusers recognize me." [REDACTED]

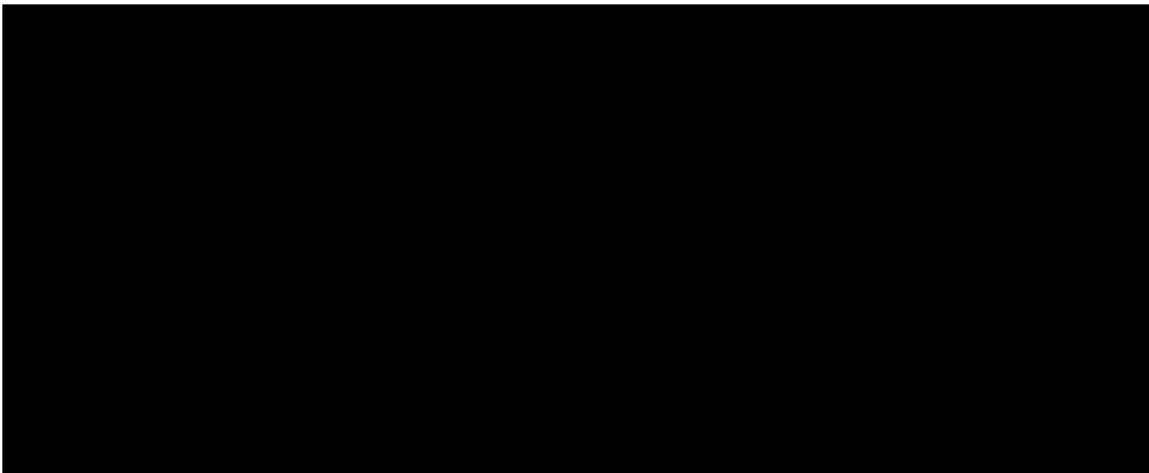


Young high school girls have been violently sexually assaulted. They report their assaults to the police. Later, some go ahead with charges, others recant; some say they lied, some say they forget the details, some friends won't testify as witnesses. Once the community believes they made it up. They are a target and assaulted again. One young girl was assaulted and wasn't believed so the case doesn't go anywhere. She misbehaved in school and had lots of behaviours that are problematic. She is highly vulnerable and at risk. She is not safe. [REDACTED]



When a person starts working in the trade, she or he may [think], "Before, I was getting abused. Now I'm getting paid." [REDACTED]

Parents don't always protect their children. Some are not able to.



Many of these kids and adults are victims of complex trauma. Their ability to trust may be destroyed. They may not be able to trust anyone, and for a damned good reason. They don't believe anyone cares and don't look for counselling. [REDACTED]

Disenfranchised youth who connect with a negative peer group can quickly spiral into drugs, alcohol and trading sex. They go to a few parties and they are in the group. Youth do not see themselves in the sex trade. They see the money, drugs and fun. They enjoy being popular and cool. This provides them with everything a teen wants when she or he lacks everything else. ■■■

Being in care can save a child's life. It is also a well-recognized risk factor for exploitation.

It's arguable that youth who are removed to care are actually going to a better place since group homes often bring new complications. Group home policies of zero tolerance for aggression mean that youth who act out due to the chaos in their lives may end up criminalized. For example, a youth puts his/her fist through the wall or utters threats like, "I'll kill you if you bother me again." They will be charged and likely convicted of an offense. There can be ways to work with youth that don't result in moving them from victims to criminals. Group homes also provide a new network of people, the opportunity to learn new skills and the introduction to new substance. This is where they can meet new abusers and be lured into drugs and sexual exploitation. ■■■ They may not have any previous experience while other youth may have experienced it their whole life in some sort of way. Sex is normalized for them, "It's what we do." ■■■ Staff have no more control over the youth than their parents had, probably less because their hands are tied. They know where the kids are going and what they are doing when they are outside the home. ■■■

Running creates risk. When the girls are on the run and we don't know where they are and they don't have any money, they are at high risk for doing what they have to in order to survive. ■■■ When their families, agencies and police catch up with these youth, most are operating in full survival mode. They are angry and defiant. They don't trust anyone and are not inclined to share any information. They are not compliant witnesses. In order to work with them successfully, people have to show them respect and spend as much time as necessary building their trust.

For many youth, a homeless shelter offers a safe haven and an opportunity to link to the services they need to move forward with their lives. But for some youth, staying in

a shelter is dangerous. They are at risk of being lured and groomed for the sex trade by other youth and adults.

When someone ends up in a shelter at 16 years of age, things aren't going well for them. There is a progression to what happens to kids. First they leave home and stay with other family members. Then they stay with friends. Then they go to St. John's and stay at a shelter. They are enticed and groomed while in the shelter. The girls glamorize the work with clothes, food, smokes, parties and cab fare. This is attractive to other girls and young women with similar backgrounds.

Mental health issues and learning disabilities can increase a person's vulnerability.

Some [of the youth] definitely have mental health issues and most have learning disabilities.

It seems a lot of the girls have diagnosed anxiety disorders. They can relate to an individual adult male and be with a group of adults at a party, but they can't be with a group of peers in a classroom without experiencing anxiety. [This may be] part and parcel of the trading activity. It may be a need for power and control.

There's a group of young girls who have mild developmental disabilities and mental health issues. They don't qualify for supports because they do not have severe/moderate disabilities. For them, substance abuse is not always an issue but they are exhausting because they require so much guidance with possibly hygiene, how to spend their day, budgeting, and/or peer relations. They are a quiet population who can't advocate for themselves. They are in a hole between mental health and developmental services [...] They don't qualify for either service. These young people often transition from youth systems between 18 to 21 years. At that point, they have no supports and are highly vulnerable. They will look for general affection and are at great risk. Another other group that is at risk are those with severe, persistent mental illness who don't have developmental disabilities but who experience developmental regression in their behaviour due to the illness. They may not cause obvious trouble for anyone but they have significant needs and do not have access to daily living supports.

Homosexual youth do not have confidence or the support to come out. This is a risk factor. They will go to another community and pretend to be straight to make money engaging in kinky sex. If a young woman is not ready to deal with or is struggling with her sexual orientation, multiple men may use this against her.

For young gay men, the number one risk is a lack of family support and the number two risk is lack of services. There is also a lack of socializing opportunities especially in rural areas and lack of peers or other adult mentors.

There are gay boys and young men from every background throughout the province. Their families kick them out and they have nowhere to go. For homosexual and transgendered youth, it's a way to meet personal needs while staying in the closet and getting money.

He felt awful, but that's what got him connected.

Peer pressure can also put youngsters at risk. They feel they have to engage in sex, drinking, drugs because everyone's doing it. In our communities, there are young girls 12 to 13 engaging in oral sex, yet they don't consider this as having sex. Other girls bring them along, they go beyond what they plan to do and are comfortable with but they don't want to disappoint the others or be made fun of. They want to feel adult and make their own decisions.

Any young person is at risk when the influence of their peer group is greater than their home attachment. Parents whose children are not strongly attached to them may be dropping their kids off to 'spend time with the enemy' when they take them to extracurricular [or] community activities. The potential for negative influences is everywhere. There's a new group of 13 and 14 year olds whose parents are calling and demanding they be taken in to care due to behaviour problems. Then they are refusing to take them back. Some parents are unable to set rules or boundaries. They also may not be 'on the job' supervising their children's activities because they are working and have little or no support or for other reasons. We're seeing a lack of parenting skills and supports to help parents deal with early acting out behaviour. This puts kids at risk.

With regards to [the sexual exploitation of] Aboriginal women, it is the life they have known as they weren't raised by families in many cases due to residential schools, etc. All their rights were taken away. They lost all their power to doctors, nurses, church authorities, residential schools. As a result, most people have a mind-set that they don't have any decision-making power. Moving into sexual exploitation isn't much different to being directed and told what you can and can't do. Authority figures in society have all the control.

The lack of culturally appropriate services is also a risk factor for Aboriginal youth and adults. Mainstream services are not seen as welcoming or relevant.

A combination of racism and gender is a significant factor in the vulnerability of Aboriginal girls and women.

The lack of housing is a huge risk factor for survival sex. Even professionals have a hard time finding a place to live now. [REDACTED] Single men and women in our communities are left to the wolves. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The ones who don't work get a pittance to live on, not enough for groceries. Chances are their parents have little income and can barely afford food and rent. They can't afford to have their son or daughter living with them, but you can't get housing without kids or a spouse. [REDACTED]

When women who have used drugs decide this is the time to be a mother, they quit using and prepare to be mothers. If the system steps in and apprehends the baby, the negative thoughts she has about herself are reinforced. She may consistently prove herself but there is often no winning in this situation. The system keeps moving the bar up and it's never enough. They have to keep proving themselves to no avail. This can send her into a spiral. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

When you do certain things, either by choice or no choice, your self-esteem is so impacted you feel you don't deserve to be loved and don't deserve to have any better. Many never had it any better. [REDACTED] The majority of the women [we know] are deeply wounded people. It's routine to hear them say, "My life is punctuated with one form of loss after another." [REDACTED]

The media is creating the hyper-sexualization of our children. They are getting really strong messages by the time they are three and four years old that they are sexual creatures. They talk about boobs in kindergarten and Grade 2. There is real lack of innocence because of their access to images and messages [...] as witnessed by the show *Tots & Tiaras*. There are increasingly disrespectful programs on TV like the adult cartoons [...] and other highly sexualized children's programs. Little girls play with high heels and strike very sexual poses at age three. Teenagers are portrayed as sexual at 14 and 15 years old; it's considered okay and normal. Dolls have thong

diapers and false eyelashes; this is really disturbing; stores sell girl thongs with words on them like "gypsy" and sweatpants with the words "your boyfriend wants me". Popular culture is primping young girls. Their body parts are labelled for everyone to see. How can they themselves as anything but sexual objects? ■■■ We allow them to dress as hookers and pimps for Halloween (complete with pimp sticks and pimp juice). And street language is now acceptable in popular media, for example, 'pimp my ride', music videos, etc. ■■■

The Addictions

It is important to note there are people in the sex trade who do not use drugs or alcohol. However, many of those involved in survival sex or other aspects of the sex trade are addicted to drugs or alcohol. When an addiction is present, so is the need for a continuous supply of money.

Being involved in the sex trade can lead to addiction to numb the pain. [redacted] [In most cases,] addictions don't come first. They are a means of coping. There is a lack of treatment programs and the programs that exist are too short. The wait list is huge and a person has to be clean for 2 weeks before they can get it. But there are no detox beds in the area. When a woman is ready for a program she has to get a referral and wait. We must acknowledge that the response time needs to be immediate. If the program isn't provided immediately, we lose them and we may not get them back.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Some young women are addicted to drugs and 'party' when they need to get marijuana, cocaine, ecstasy, heroin and hash. When they really crave drugs or alcohol, they phone the bootlegger or the drug dealer. Then they walk on the road until the guy picks them up and they trade sex for the goods. White guys and [Aboriginal] men send in the drugs and alcohol from outside communities. [redacted]

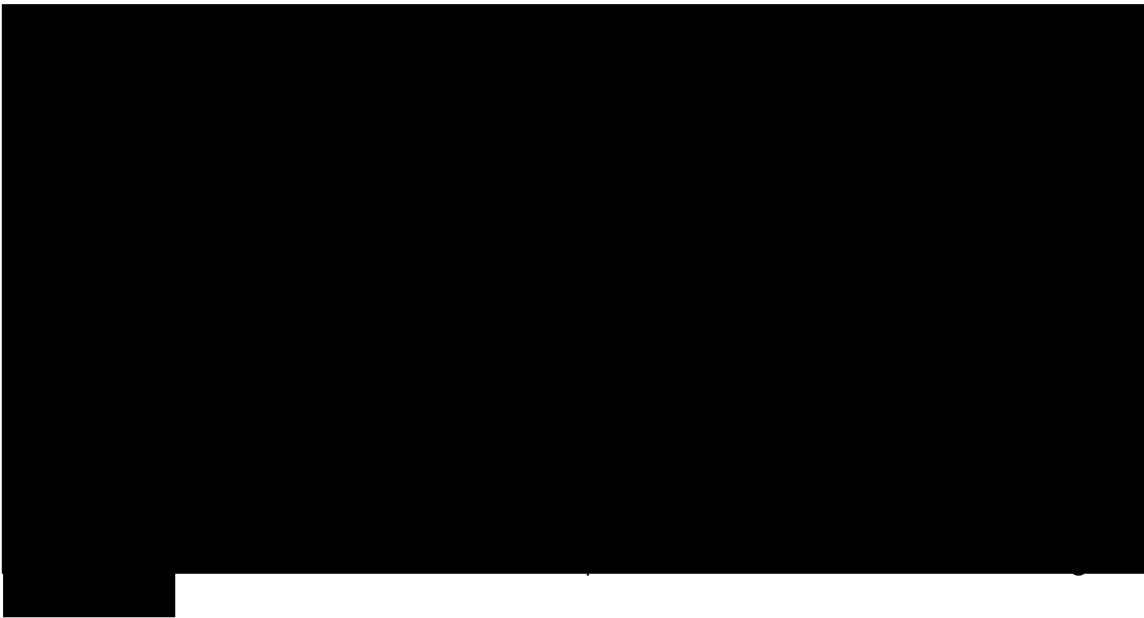
The women will trade sex when they're sober for a few bucks to buy a drink. For them, it is survival. They are addicted to alcohol. They will also ask other women for a quarter to, "feed the addiction." [redacted]

[redacted]



There is a really high rate of drug use in the [rural] area; a huge amount. I never saw such an amount of drugs in [another province]. Coke is used by people you would not expect, including kids who are doing well in school and use on the weekends. [REDACTED]

Young women are going to die. They are brought into the drug culture and abused by people over time. They are so messed up. [REDACTED] People do what they have to do to get the drugs they need. Many are drug dependent; but it's a chicken-and-the-egg situation; which comes first, sex trade or drug addiction? The realities of this life are harsh and dramatic. [REDACTED]



We see women living downtown who have visible mental illness combined with being heavily under the influence. We see them sitting on the front stoop close to cheque day with a look of hopelessness, [REDACTED]

Drug addiction and addiction to gambling are both related to the sex trade. Adult women are selling themselves for their gambling addiction. No one will advertize their gambling addiction and talk about how they get the money. Gambling machines are ruining some women. I watched one woman go to the bank machine six times in one evening. She has three small children. Where can the money come from? And government talks about using some of the money to help people with gambling problems. It's shameful. The women are somebody's child, sister or mother. [REDACTED]

The sex trade itself is addicting. The attention, the adrenaline rush, the danger and the fast money can all be compelling.

People also get addicted to the money they earn from the trade. It's just enough to stay in the trade and not enough to leave. [REDACTED]

The Voices of Experience

[REDACTED] Key Informant [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Key Informant [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Key Informant [REDACTED]

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Exiting

The Voices of Experience

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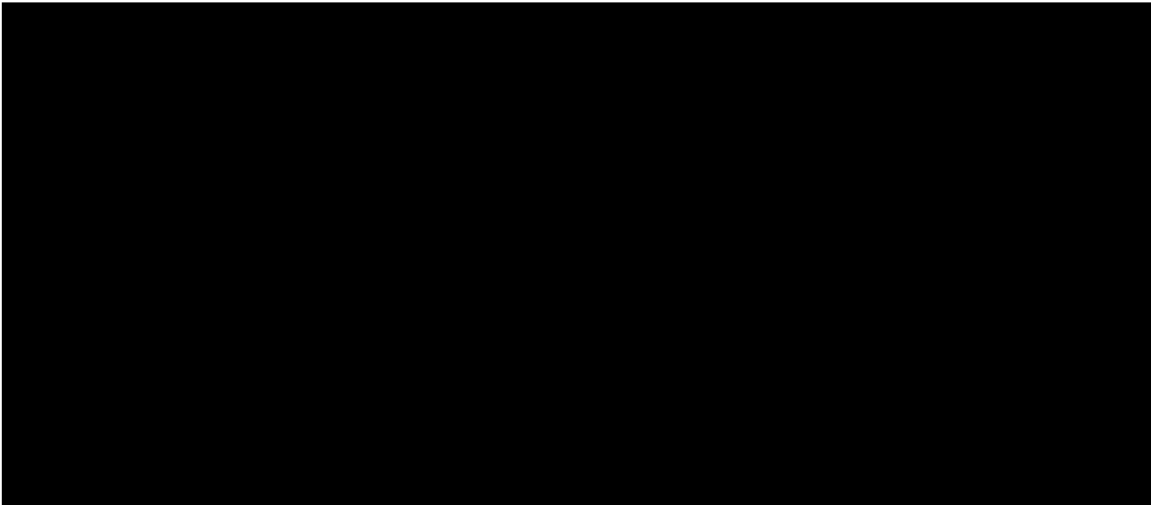
We need to teach them what they need in order to survive, how to protect themselves, how to do everything. They are so dependent on a pimp they don't know how to do anything for themselves. They started young and don't have the skills they need. We

need to teach them basic coping skills. Their whole sense of self has been skewed. They worry about what will happen if their family finds out. Everything can come up and need to be dealt with. They need a whole lot of safety. A safe place is the biggest thing.

We need to pay women for the time they spend getting support from programs and services. This will help them bridge the gap. All programs need to be based on what women know they need. Staff must have sincere empathy for the women and understand the trauma they have experienced. The vast majority of women were abused as kids.



■ Key Informant ■



Hire peers who have moved on from the experience but have the capacity to help others. Help youth get the services they need. Staff and volunteers must be non-judgmental, non-biased, open and accepting, compassionate and empathetic. They must not treat youth like 'sooks.' They must be able to handle someone "having [a] bad day," with all that entails. Help them get the services they need and know that they've got to do this themselves. You can't fix anybody or do it for them. But you can help them connect to what they need. They need to make money. Help them figure out other ways to do that. Youth can lull each other into the trade and they can lull each other out. Put the money where it belongs.

We need a 24 hour drop-in centre for youth working in the trade or living on the street that offers a shower, laundry, hot food, a place to get out of the cold. They also need someone to have a chitchat with, someone who can help them deal with whatever they are dealing with. The youth must identify the issue. They also need someone to debrief with - someone who knows where they are coming from. It's important to provide a consistent, stable environment at the centre with the same people working at the same place from year to year; you shouldn't have constant change. Staff also have to be able to put some fire under their arses. Whether they like it or not, tough love may be needed. Staff have to be able to care, but also hold youth accountable. They need to have a contract with youth to help them get motivated to do what's good for them in some way. That could mean they get money for groceries when they see the counsellor.

The youth do not have parents or authority in their lives. Workers need to exercise the authority. You have to take their hand and guide them to the door. Youth need a connection to other services when they are ready: counseling to help deal with the emotional damage, a place to stay off the street, and longer term housing.

When people decide to get out, there is a nostalgia that gets in the way and they wonder, "Now what do I do?" They are vulnerable at the point when they are wondering whether they really want to quit or not. They will fear being cut off from the source of money. They will think, "I can't get a job and make this kind of money." But the truth is most aren't making any better than the minimum wage anyway.

■ Key Informant ■

[REDACTED]

We need counsellors with expertise in working with people who have been sexually exploited and those who have worked in the sex trade. We need trauma-informed counsellors.

We must give women safe places and options that are grounded in reality. We need to learn how to help women fix broken gender relationships. Women who have been exploited learn to manage men by using their bodies: "I can manage you 'cause I know how." But it is dangerous to use your body to get your needs met or to get out of trouble.

Men have to be involved with helping the women learn how to be with men in a 'normal way.' They have been taught by men that they are less than human. They have been taught to toe what the man tells them. It can be very difficult for a woman to manage that in a new workplace; she may not be able to work with men. Being out of the trade means learning how to negotiate relationships that are not based on sex. This can be very difficult to do when you have no experience. Long-term support is needed to help women reconnect with men and learn that relationships can be safe. Women need help figuring out that abuse and exploitation in a relationship is not normal.

A woman may find it hard to put money in a bank account or share information about her finances. For years, she may have had no money of her own or had to hide what little she did have.

The sex trade is so isolating and people who do the work feel so outside. It's like everyone else is walking around with a secret you don't know and you have to pretend you know the secret too. But your secret makes you feel you don't belong.

HRLE needs to develop new policies for providing emergency housing to people trying to leave the sex trade. Many people who are working at night are experiencing significant sleep deprivation because they don't have a safe place to sleep. They are homeless or trying to sleep in places where they are at constant risk of assault, yet HRLE won't give them emergency housing because they aren't spending their day looking for a place to live and a legitimate job. They need the emergency service in order to get some sleep so they can begin to consider other options.

There is a whole idea of separateness between "normal society" and people working in the trade. Services have to learn how to bridge this gap. We need mentorship programs where women (and men) who have exited and are being supported can help others who are considering getting out.

Programs must understand that a person may not stay exited; when abuse is what you've known, you experience a level of anxiety when you realize you're out. This can drive you back to your comfort zone, which is danger and stress. We need to help people learn how to replicate danger and stress in a normal way rather than return to the abuse.

The stress of not having money will keep a woman working. Poverty is not having money, and not having money means you are in great danger and someone is going to hurt you. When your worth has been tied to money for so long, you need to earn money when doing other things. This helps you get to a place where you can believe in your own worth and value. This is your point of exit. So we must pay women equal to what they are making in the sex trade when they try other options such as school, employment programs, or other employment. We can show women these other options are worthy by attaching the same rate of pay. Women need to have money in their pocket that belongs to them and know they will not be told how to spend it; pimps keep all the money and control every resource and need. When you are only worth as much as the last date paid you, earning money when exploring other options helps you learn the value of those options and your own worth.

Options such as education and employment should be offered at night using alternate staffing models while a person is exiting. Their bodies and minds need to be retrained to work by day and sleep by night. This is a process. It might help to begin working from 12 am to 3 or 4 am when they are first exiting.

Program staff need to understand that when people exit, they are leaving what has defined them. They are giving up their identity, their "family," their friend, relationships with men who were regulars. Staff are asking people to break up and lose relationships. Consider what it would mean for you to pack up a few things and leave everyone and everything you know behind. Consider leaving your home, relationships, and the life you have today... What would make you do that? How would you feel? Could you stay away?

The abuse may be really bad and the men may be really disgusting, but relationships are always primary. We have nothing if we don't have relationships.

Programs put up barriers to people who are trying to leave: "We don't like your behaviour. You are banned from here. We won't feed you when you're cracked up." But someone has to help. We aren't enabling people when we help them and attach that help to something meaningful like housing, education, or work. Enabling is a word that is used so people don't have to care too much.

When normal is out of reach, that's a loss you always have. We need to provide long-term help - we need to learn how to help keep women safe so they don't go back to work. There is always stress and she may always feel she doesn't quite fit. She may worry about what people are thinking. She may be fearful that a bunch of men are walking around that know the one thing that could ruin her family and make her lose her kids.

Because of the dynamics between the pimp or boyfriend, a woman may feel that for the rest of her life someone else has power over her. How does she manage her self-esteem? It's almost like being held hostage by a past person. You can feel it for a long

time, even until he is dead. Empowerment in the face of this dynamic is a critical piece of work.

We need to help teach people acceptance of the past, but not forgiveness. In order to have a life, women have to reconcile their experiences. They need understanding about what led them to being exploited and accept that what they did was what they needed to do in order to survive. Then they need to move through that without identifying as having done something really bad.

There is a truth that needs to be put out for people. How can we have a place to speak the truth in a service, but not be identified? How do we make a service safe for women who want to exit or stay out after they exit? Maybe it should be an underground service that moves from one anonymous location to another. The group could float between locations. We need to provide medical checkups outside of standard hours, perhaps at the same time as the group session.

You have to shut down some pieces inside yourself in order to do it. You have to turn off pieces. Then you have to find ways to emotionally reconnect with people in general. This leads you to make lots of mistakes and act in socially inappropriate ways: the rules are different.

A remote shelter for women who have decided to exit may also be effective. It would offer programming outside of the downtown core that provides women with the opportunity to experience a break. It would remove them from the familiar territories of their exploiters and give an opportunity for peace. This could be an alternate transition house, or a place where women may choose to go to find safety for a few days or a chance to connect to other women and services.

■ **Key Informant** ■

[Redacted]

■ **Key Informant** ■

[Redacted]

Many workers say, "I never thought I could walk away." Many feel they sold their soul in the sex trade. Some find ways to get out when it's time. Some find ways to feel free afterward. Many workers are multi-barriered victims of abuse and violence. They need help, support, and therapy.

They also need employment in a timely manner; they need to survive. It's important to help people find their skills and be as creative and practical as possible in finding opportunities for employment. The best programs work with people's strengths rather than their barriers. Exiting is a process not an action. It's freeing to move forward. Experiential people are role models and create extremely valuable relationships with peers who are seeking to exit.

Key Informant



What We Can Do

**“ People don’t want to see it. People don’t care to know.
They don’t care. ”**

Everybody has a responsibility for it. It’s a social issue and we can all be agents of change to help prevent and reduce it.

Every sexually exploited youth and adult sex trade worker has a story to tell. We must learn how to ask and how to listen. We must be present and available. We need to understand. And ultimately, we must respond in ways that are helpful.

We need to name the issues, adopt a mandate to work on them, and share information with each other. Of course, rather than acting, we always have the option of maintaining the status quo, keeping things as they are, and letting this be our normal.

“ But the trouble with normal is it always gets worse ”*

A. Setting The Direction

A great deal of work needs to be done to address the issues highlighted in this report.

Families need to be supported and youth need positive opportunities. Children, youth, parents, and educators need to be educated and informed about the risks of exploitation. We need to make the public aware of the issues and change some attitudes. Business and industry must take an active role in preventing sexual exploitation.

We have to reach out to survivors of sexual exploitation and provide services that meet their needs. We must offer practical and respectful supports to those who work in the sex trade.

Service providers, including teachers, youth workers, guidance counselors, social workers, psychologists, nurses, doctors, police officers, and judges need education and specific skill training. Gaps need to be plugged and new services must be developed.

We can do a lot more about the people who are exploiting children and youth.

However, before we can do any of this, we must work together to develop the necessary mandates, structures, and processes to move the work forward.

* The Trouble with Normal
Written by Bruce Cockburn
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Government Leadership

People do not recognize sexual exploitation or know that it exists; we cannot prevent what isn't even recognized. ■ There is no engagement on this until we say, "It's here" and "It's the big elephant in the room." ■ We have to not be afraid. We have to start by acknowledging what's happening. Until we admit the problems are out there, we can't provide solutions. ■

The starting point for action is a mandate set by the Provincial Government to address issues related to sexual exploitation, including prevention, interventions, supports, and enforcement.

Develop a Coordinated Response

We all need to be partners at the table and active participants in fixing it. ■ We need to make this everybody's responsibility. ■

The current Provincial Government has a well-established capacity to work horizontally across departments and develop comprehensive strategies. Key informants were virtually unanimous in their call for a coordinated, collaborative response to the issues. Representatives from every sector spoke about the need to share information and work together. They know this work cannot be done in silos.

The first step would be the creation of a cross-departmental Ministers' Committee, with membership from relevant departments, including the Women's Policy Office; Child, Youth and Family Services; Health and Community Services; Education; Human Resources, Labour and Employment; Innovation, Trade and Rural Development, etc.

This committee would work together in an integrated and coordinated way to identify and respond to the issues; change government policies, programs and legislation as required; and provide information to the Provincial Cabinet.

The second step would be to establish a Collaborative Working Committee comprised of relevant government departments and agencies, members of the Coalition Against the Sexual Exploitation of Youth, the RNC and RCMP, and other relevant groups.

This committee would set the direction for the work involved with prevention, enforcement, interventions, and supports based on best practices. The committee would also provide information to the Ministers' Committee, government departments, agencies, organizations, and the police.

B. The Justice System

The information and recommendations presented in this section of the report were gathered from key informants within the justice system.

Historically, the police have not been very good to, women, children, or racialized people. Police and others have not provided them with the help they need, in a way that works for them. Police, Crown Attorneys, and judges really need education about exploitation. We need stiffer penalties for all forms of sexual exploitation. ■■■

The Police

Mandate & Resources

No one is taking ownership of the problems and issues. People have disdain for the issues, including the police. We need a mandate to work on it, but it's a big challenge to change the mindset of the leadership. ■■■ We need political leadership on the issues. ■■■ There is no enforcement of youth sexual exploitation. It's like the days of Mt. Cashel. ■■■

The enforcement of sexual exploitation has to be mandated, resourced, and reportable, with real consequences for non-compliance. We have the ability to go after pimps, groomers, and buyers using low-cost, low-effort undercover operations, but the sexual exploitation of youth continues unabated. We have real offenders. We should bust them and put them in jail. We have real victims. We must support the kids and provide them with everything they need. ■■■

Although we are lacking a proactive approach, we have the resources for this work. We need to get a project on the guys, and charge them. ■■■ Intelligence led policing and evidence-based decision-making are the best approaches. We have to move away from reacting all the time to being proactive. This is not a simple issue for an organization. There will always be a need for reactive work, but we need to shift our culture to be proactive as well. ■■■

It's such a systemic problem. We need some semblance of a joint-forces effort between policing and community agencies with dedicated resources and a stated mandate to work on these issues. In the absence of this, we won't get anywhere. This would be financially sound and the intelligence potential of the joint approach would be huge. If we had more focus on proactive prevention, this would result in more enforcement. ■■■ Front-line police can cooperate with each other and do this work well. Politics and personality are not an issue; they see the issues beyond the politics. A spirit of cooperation at the leadership level could influence everyone to change from "us versus them" to "we." ■■■

A large percentage of missing kids are sexually exploited. ■■■ Newfoundland and Labrador could have a joint missing persons unit to do this work that would be mandated to be proactive. Child prostitution is illegal. The RNC and RCMP need to communicate with the women and men working in the sex trade. They've got to make it about finding the kids that are involved. In Alberta, Project Care was created in response to missing sex trade workers. The police go on the streets at night out of uniform and on foot. They have broken down the police barrier with the sex trade workers. The police are collecting photos, identification and DNA in case they go missing. They have a 90% compliance rate. Women even call them to say they are going elsewhere to work for a week. The officers make sure they have food and make sure they know they are watching out for them. ■■■

We prevent sexual exploitation through the use of general disruption by walking through the bars. And we use a coordinated effort with the Liquor Control Officer to go in with them and use their power to shut them down. ■■■ Strip clubs, massage parlours, and escort services should be policed on a regular basis to check the age of the workers, the types of activities taking place, and working conditions, and distribute information about community resources available to the workers.

Staff Training

Sexually exploited youth, sexual assault victims, trafficked individuals, and abused children need to be interviewed using the same methods and sensitivity. ■■■

We have a big impact on the people we work with and we can be our own worst enemies by having poor attitudes towards people who are exploited or work in the trade. Police attitude has such a tremendous impact on the people we deal with. They can shut down and get really hardened when they are treated badly. The officers who work with youth need to want to work with them; they have to be able to look beyond what the youth is doing and see the bigger picture. They have to understand that prostitution is not a free choice that kids make. They have to be able to talk to the kids, build some trust, and then the truth will come out. ■■■

We need to train officers to get past the bravado of youth and being told to f-off, being spat on, etc. They need to shrug it off and work with the youth. Eventually, they can make contact and the kids will start talking. It's their job to get justice for the victims. They fail the person again if they take a bad statement. There's enough failure already without having uncomfortable and untrained officers handling cases. ■■■ We can't help people who don't want to be helped, but we can make them aware of what's available to them. We can help them by asking, "What are your options?" "Where are you going?" "Do you need money? Take a step back and look at the situation." ■■■

Police need to learn this early in their careers. A lot of kids take on an attitude. We have to show them a bit of respect and offer them a clean slate. They need to be able to have trust and confidence in you. If you are not able to help a child get comfortable, you have to be the first one out of the room and find the right one to talk to them. When a child comes forward, you have to tell them, "I will do everything I can to make sure you can sleep safe tonight." You have to work with social workers, CYFS workers, mental health and addictions counselors, Victims Services, whoever you need to involve. The well-being of the child comes first; the charges come later. This approach does work. The children are believed and the bad guy is caught. ■■■

When interviewing children [and adults] who may have been abused or sexually assaulted, it's critical to ask them if any pictures or video were taken. This will often turn the investigation. If it was filmed, you will have the evidence and the case won't rely on the child and the investigator, although it will involve getting warrants. ■■■

Collaboration with Community

The police perspective is part of what is needed, but it would be better and there would be a bigger impact if everyone shared their perspectives and learned more about the reality of the people and the activities. Police should focus on intelligence gathering and investigations; the community can help with this. Within a limited period of time, would learn the big picture and become acutely aware of the intersecting issues along with the resources and dedication required to help save people. Community agencies and the RNC could share a mandate, collaborate, share information and be highly successful and efficient. Instead, we sit on our hands. ■■■

[To do prevention and enforcement work] we need an integrated unit with all relevant agencies, including police, social workers, addictions counsellors, etc. ■■■ We need an approach similar to the one used by the UK police. It breaks down the lack of trust among groups and brings folks together. Someone has to be tasked with pulling the team together, sharing the problems, sorting out decisions and actions. We need to work together to identify the issue and someone has to be responsible for ultimately making the decisions, whether there is agreement or not, then move the team into action in the best interests of those involved. ■■■

Internet Child Exploitation

Busting offenders is a good thing. When pedophiles learn there is an operation on the go, it causes some of them to back off. ■■■ The following song lyric is often quoted by a child exploitation investigator. It aptly describes the actions we must take to prevent sexual exploitation.

“ Got to kick at the darkness till it bleeds daylight ”*

*Lovers in a Dangerous Time
Written by Bruce Cockburn
Copyright 1983 Golden Mountain Music
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Internet luring is bringing a whole new element to things. It allows pedophiles to find each other and trade images and techniques, discuss things and encourage each other. It creates a feeling of a sense of normalcy. It allows them to justify their behaviours. They create fantasies from a child's point of view where it is natural and good and what the child wants to do. The videos and sounds are vile. Internet luring is terrifying. The victims are children who don't have that much family support around them, or have parents who don't understand this activity and the danger. One international operation with involvement in NL rescued 25 children worldwide. We had to believe that one specific child that we saw was finally rescued, although we don't know this to be true. ■■■

The 2011-2012 Provincial Government Budget Speech included the announcement of \$108,300 a year for a Royal Newfoundland Constabulary officer to staff a Child Exploitation Prevention Unit in Corner Brook, further expanding our province's capacity to combat child exploitation. While this is a most welcome investment, more is needed to address the situation.

Our enforcement, prosecution and sentencing are years behind other jurisdictions. ■■■ We need to reallocate police duties, resources, and time in order to do proactive investigations. There are many IP addresses that are in possession of child porn who are waiting to be caught if we could just use our skills as a trained investigator to do the job. ■■■

The guys who are looking for children are meeting each other on the net and their behaviour and sexual attraction is being normalized. They are walking and wandering around the internet with likeminded individuals and are more likely to act on it. They can be in a chat room with 200 like-minded offenders. But we are also more likely to catch them at it. The internet gives us an opportunity for the first time to get men before their victims come forward. They are "blind melons" ready for the picking if we had the resources. Currently, we are constantly on a treadmill keeping up with cases that come to us with victims. We can't do any proactive work. We could have radar on the highway looking for prevents but right now we can only be reactive. We have proven our ability to do undercover work. We need to mentor new police into this work and spread our corporate knowledge. How much money could we save if 25 more men no longer had access to kids and how many kids would be rescued? We could be 100 percent effective. ■■■

It takes 160 hours to analyze one computer hard drive; handling 10 cases requires one full time analyst. This would require a big investment but the work is out there to be done. And the hidden costs of these offences are huge. We need to put money into preventing sexual exploitation. The RCMP and RNC would benefit from a joint operation. Newfoundland and Labrador victims and offenders cross both jurisdictions. We need to bury our political differences and make it happen. We should not be afraid we will have to relinquish resources. The joint forces drug team is a model for joint action. This is a vast area and we need to combine our body of knowledge and

continue to build expertise in our computer tech staff; our people can complement and learn from each other. [REDACTED]

The province needs two amalgamated child exploitation units: one East Unit, and one West Unit that would help Labrador as needed. The units would have the training, tools, and political will to push the issues and bring them to the forefront. The RCMP and RNC have to break down the barrier that's between them. Calgary and Edmonton have integrated ICE units and they work just fine. We can get along and play in the sandbox together. Not long ago, we were told there was no issue in our province because nobody looks or trades child porn in the province; but the IP address map shows the real story. [REDACTED]

One of the biggest obstacles to enforcement is the telecom companies who refuse to provide IP addresses without a production order. Rogers accepts Law Enforcement Requests [essentially a letter from law enforcement] while Bell and Eastlink require a Production Order [essentially a warrant signed by a judge]. Once a lengthy production order has been completed, it can take a month before the judge signs it and the telecommunication company produces the information. During that month, other incidents can and do occur. Victims can be harmed while the process slowly proceeds. [REDACTED]

We need to ensure that telecommunication companies are required to comply with Law Enforcement Requests for IP addresses suspected of accessing child pornography.

The Courts

Respect

It's appalling how the young women were further victimized on the stand. It was disgusting how they treated one of the young women during the [trial of a pimp]; another wouldn't testify at that trial. [REDACTED]

We need more knowledgeable courts. [...] They are so slow to change and don't reflect the changes in society at all. [...] Many judges just don't get it. For example, one judge said he is really bothered by cases where a 22-year-old man has sex with 14- and 15-year-old girls. Instead of being in university living a good life, he is in jail for three years while the girl walks away laughing. He's seen several 13-, 14-, and 15-year-olds who 'completely consented' to having sex with men and feels the age of consent was raised strictly for political reasons. The girls are just 'mall rats' who want it and are asking for it. [REDACTED]

The biggest thing is sensitivity. We must protect the victims, known or unknown. That also includes the court system. During the prosecution of a retired RCMP officer, the court showed videos of child porn on a sanitized laptop. Only the Crown, judge, and defense viewed the images. The Crown then described the images in enough detail

for anyone to imagine what it was. But a media rep argued he had the right to see the images because it was an open court. Why do people need to see this? Was he just trying to prove a point? The details of the offense re-victimize the victim. People in a small town know who is involved. When a publication ban is imposed, the media will fight for their right to get the details. Every sexual assault should be dealt with in a closed court. It is a very big deal. ■■■

I have taken a couple of cases of child sexual abuse through trial. It was good for them to get closure, but it wasn't all that they needed. They have piercings, tattoos, drug addictions, long bouts of depression, mental illness, no self-esteem left and weight issues. Some will overeat and put on weight during the period when they are being assaulted. They are never going to be the same. The majority have babies really young. They often don't realize the abuse until they are older. By age 13, some understand it is wrong. Some of the victims have struggled with the fact that being aroused felt good. They feel ashamed and started to take some of the blame for what had happened to them. It's emotionally draining for a girl to be re-victimized on the stand. They feel they did something wrong. I tried to explain to them that the police investigation is what's on trial and the defense will look for loopholes. ■■■

Weighing the Evidence

The evidence gathered during investigations into child pornography, sexual exploitation, and sexual assaults is horrifying. The police investigators who gather and analyze this evidence bear witness to the pain and degradation experienced by the victims. These officers also understand the nature of the offenders and their offenses.

Generally, Crown attorneys and judges have far less experience than officers, and many do not seem to have a comprehensive understanding of the intent and impact of the crimes.

It's tough to sentence someone convicted of child porn appropriately unless you understand what it is. Kiddie porn is not someone just looking at pictures. ■■■

"Man secretly videotaped stepdaughter" The Telegram, March 4, 2011

A teenager whose stepfather secretly videorecorded her in her bedroom after she showered told provincial court Thursday she may never be able to trust a man again.

The girl says she starts to shake at the thought "of what he was going to do with his little video."

The man pled guilty to a charge of unlawfully observing or making a visual recording where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy, but that charge does not include doing so for a sexual purpose.

The 26-minute video, although it was not shown publicly, depicts the girl naked after she emerged from the shower, applying lotion and then getting dressed, the court heard. The man hid the camera in the closet in socks and is shown in the beginning picking up a pair of her thong underwear and smelling it.

"Is it explicit? Do I have to watch it?" [the judge] had asked prior to consenting to viewing it on a laptop shaded from everyone else's view.

[A Crown attorney] said the video speaks for itself as to the nature of the incident.

[The judge] questioned the [Crown attorney], wondering if she was satisfied not to pursue a charge of making the video for a sexual purpose, but he eventually accepted the guilty plea.

The answer to the judge's question is, "Yes." If they do not see and hear the images, they will not fully understand the nature of the offenses and effects on victims. ■■■

Judges need to be mandated to look at the images and hear the audio. Currently, judges have to look at the evidence, but they don't have to look at all of it. There's a lesson to be learned from the folks in Ontario who trained their judges; they believe they are seeing better sentences handed down by judges. When judges try murder cases, they look at all the evidence; when a grow-op [is] part of a case, they review all the analysis. A child porn case will have 6-700,000 images. An officer sorts all of them and parses the child porn images, then selects some for viewing. The officer knows the child is a real person. But some judges have gone on record saying there are no real victims in these cases; there is no one in the court room. The judges need to see and understand these are real children. The investigators have watched the video 50 to 60 times looking for clues about identity and location. The child who has been locked in a dog cage and led out by a chain has already lived that and is still out there. The least the judge can do is look at the images once and truly give these children a voice. They are the only ones who can. ■■■

Charges & Plea Bargains

The issues of plea bargaining are also highlighted in the March 11th article in The Telegram quoted above. Once the judge in the case viewed the evidence, he questioned the Crown about whether she was in fact satisfied not to pursue a charge of making the video for a sexual purpose.

Too often, the Crown's attitude is to not take cases of sexual assault, child pornography, or sexual exploitation seriously enough. We need to stop the system from reducing charges and encouraging people to cop a plea. This means the courts never see the evidence and that's not justice. Justice requires a trial and sharing all the facts and evidence so everyone can understand what's really happening. We need people in the system to look a victim in the eyes and really see what's been done to them. There are many examples of where the Crown wants to [...] plead to a lesser charge. A woman [in another province] was kidnapped, gang raped, tortured, burned, and kept in the trunk of a car by a biker gang. Her brother was friends with the gang. When he discovered what happened, he gave her money to take the bus home and told her not to tell anyone. Her mom took her to the hospital. Four men were charged with human trafficking but the Crown wants to drop it and plead to a lesser charge. We need that not to happen. [REDACTED]

Sentencing

On November 23, 2010, Judge Wayne Gorman filed a judgment in R. v. D.N. The accused pled guilty to touching a person under the age of sixteen years for a sexual purpose, two counts of failing to appear in court, and two counts of failing to comply with an undertaking. The victim was a ten-year-old girl who lived in the same house with the offender. The Crown attorney and defense lawyer came to an agreement on sentencing which included seven months and ten days in prison for the sexual interference charge and "time served" for the remaining offences.

With regards to this sentencing agreement, Judge Gorman wrote: "This is a sentence that will place children at risk because it has no deterrent effect. It is a sentence which sends a message to the public that sexual offences against children are not taken seriously by the Crown Attorney's office or by the Courts of this Province."

Sentencing is out of whack. We need stronger sentences for some of the offences. It's wrong to get 18-month house arrest for child pornography, when the same offense results in a 40-year sentence in the United States. [REDACTED] Sentencing [...] doesn't compare to the harm they cause. Although no sentence will make a prolific child porn offender stop what they are doing, we can put them away. [REDACTED]

Special Initiatives for Victims Office

The lives of those who are sexually exploited are often tangled up in the justice system. Although they may first arrive at the door as offenders, they are often victims of violence, in need of understanding, protection, and support. This section has highlighted the need to educate those who work in the system and further develop justice responses to the issues.

There would be great merit in setting up an office within the Department of Justice responsible for the coordination and accountability of police, crown, probation, and

victim services' responses to individuals who have experienced violence, including those who have been sexually exploited. The office would assist in the coordination of training and service development, research best practices and provide information to government. ■■■

Psychological Support

A police investigator, technicians, prosecutors, court clerks, and judges who assist with investigations - everyone who is affected by the work involved with child pornography and sexual exploitation - everyone needs and deserves psychological help. ■■■

We need to have entry, maintenance, and exit debriefing for everyone working with these files. The system needs to support the people doing the work. Everyone should have a mandatory visit with a counselor whenever they experience stress. This should be normalized within the system. ■■■

C. Prevention And Supports

We need to reach out to youth who are sexually exploited and adults who are working in the sex trade and offer to services designed to help them with the issues they face, including health, safety and harm reduction. The best way to do this work is through a collaborative outreach program delivered by agency staff and experiential peers.

The Voice of Experience

■ Key Informant ■■■

Stripping, drugs, and drinking - all of it: it's all addictive. And being told to stop and having someone in your face about it only makes you worse. How about saying, "I'll help you" instead of, "Don't do that."

It's never going to stop, but it's just got to be safer for them.

I have given [a street-based sex worker] the coat off my back, money, and hot coffee when she working [location] and frozen to death.

You have to build trust with everyone out there. Then you can help them. You have to ask each person in the situation, "What do you need?" and "What do you want?"

We need young people who have been there and done that to work in an outreach program and talk with the girls. They could be out and about helping the girls, with coffee and stuff. They would be out walking and being seen. They would be someone you could go to if you really need somebody.

CASEY

Currently, CASEY is an unfunded coalition based in St. John's. Active members are knowledgeable, skilled, and committed to developing their expertise in preventing sexual exploitation and meeting the needs of children, youth, and adults who have been or are vulnerable to being sexually exploited.

With funding, CASEY could quickly expand to a provincial organization. Research participants identified several roles for this organization, including: developing working relationships with all stakeholders; helping stakeholders build their capacity to respond to the issues; providing outreach services to individuals who are sexually exploited; developing a peer mentoring/peer education service; creating public awareness; delivering education programs; coordinating professional skill development training; and continuing to research the issues and best practices.

Three staff positions would be needed to move this work forward: a Director, a Public Education & Training Coordinator, and an Outreach Coordinator.

The outreach program would include experiential peer outreach workers. It would assist individuals to navigate government and community services, including crisis intervention, harm reduction, food, housing, clothing, health care, income and court support. The service would be non-judgmental; inclusive; respectful; culturally appropriate; accepting of chaos and diversity; and able to respond to emergency situations.

Collaborative Exiting Program

The transition to adulthood is when [sexually exploited youth] try to get out. But by then, they have few options for getting a job. They may have an adult criminal record and significant self esteem issues [...]; their options are significantly limited. ■

Like most of us who work for a living, the identity of an adult sex trade worker can be inextricably tied to their work. The most commonly asked question in a social setting is, "What do you do for a living?" Sex trade workers generally cannot answer that question truthfully. The stigma attached to their work creates shame and guilt which can keep workers isolated and marginalized. It can keep them away from mainstream services. Over time, both the stigma and working conditions can be damaging. At some point, most workers are ready to get out of the trade, but their isolation and the discrimination they face can make this very difficult.

We need to offer an exiting program that is collaborative, community-based, and peer-driven. It needs to provide both long-term and emergency support; access to emergency funds for relocation; peer support and peer counselling; trauma

counselling; addictions support; pre-employment support; and assistance in navigating mainstream services, programs and supports.

Exiting is a process not an event, so the supports need to be available throughout a person's lifetime. The service would also be non-judgmental; inclusive; respectful; culturally appropriate; and accepting of chaos and diversity.

Professional Education and Training

Current service providers, including social workers, counselors, health care providers, youth workers, addictions services, and educators need training in the skills required to identify and work with individuals who have been or are vulnerable to being sexually exploited.

We also need to graduate professionals who have the skills and knowledge they need. It is important to develop and implement curricula specific to sexual exploitation in relevant post-secondary faculties and programs, including police training, schools of nursing, medical school, social work, education, and women's studies.

In addition, all education and training materials need to be inclusive, culturally appropriate, and respectful of diversity.

Department of Child, Youth and Family Services

The new Department of Child, Youth and Family Services plays an important role in the lives of children and youth who are sexually exploited. Research participants identified three key ways for the department to enhance their services:

- Implement a protocol to assess children and youth for sexual exploitation
- Develop and implement innovative outreach to youth who are sexually exploited
- Ensure that case planning for youth who have been or are at risk of being sexually exploited includes all appropriate supports specific to addressing sexual exploitation

Addictions Services

It is clear that our current addictions services are inadequate to meet the needs of sexually exploited youth or adults involved with the sex trade, yet these services are both essential for the health of individuals and an integral component of the pathway to exiting.

In order to improve the delivery of addictions services, we need to:

- Develop and implement a protocol to assess youth and adults for sexual exploitation.
- Offer sexually exploited youth and adults in the sex trade a choice of services designed to ensure their safety, including medical detox and out-of-province programming
- Incorporate programming modules specific to individuals in the sex trade within current addiction programs and counseling services

Health and Safety

We need to offer practical and respectful supports to adults working in the sex trade, including health care and bad date reporting.

Workplace health and safety regulations and labour standards need to be applied to the commercial sex trade business, including strip clubs, massage parlors and escort services.

In Vancouver, as a nurse, we had a strong presence on the street. We also had services [anonymous, free STI, HIV screening] that clients in the sex trade would want. They would see us on the street giving out condoms or needles and eventually trust would build where they would come in to see us for STI/HIV screening. Sexual health is a big concern for this population. Taking care of that builds more trust. Eventually, if or when someone is brave enough to try to leave the sex trade, we were already a safe, professional connection for them. ■■■■

[People] need free, accessible, anonymous, barrier-free health care available at walk-in clinics. We have to be there for people in order to provide supports. Every connection with someone can be a time to build trust. ■■■■

I remember a young girl, age unknown, on the streets of Vancouver and obviously fearful. She comes to me for STI testing and asks if she “can get a pump spray for them.” She hoped there was something she could spray on the men who are buying her that would disinfectant them and keep her safe. ■■■■

The following recommendations would open the door to health care for many youth and adults who are currently ignored or discriminated against:

- Enact legislation enabling access to anonymous STI/HIV testing
- Develop and implement a Street Nurse Program based on the BC Centre for Disease Control model
- Ensure health care providers are educated about sexual exploitation and have the skills to provide health care to exploited individuals in a sensitive and appropriate way
- Develop barrier-free health care services

Housing Choice

People around the province are experiencing a housing crisis. When a person has nowhere to live, they are not just homeless, they are also vulnerable to sexual exploitation. The term 'couch sex' emerged from very real experiences of girls and boys, women and men who have nowhere to live.

Even when housing is available, many people have very little to no choice of where to live or sleep. A sexually exploited girl living in the midst of chaos faces the very real risk of being raped if she does not have a safe place to stay.

We must find ways to provide youth and adults with housing options, including emergency shelter that ensures the safety of the individual.

Aboriginal Communities

Reclaiming Choice

This historical loss of control over their lives has been dictated over the years. Young children with TB were taken out of the community by boat or plane for treatment; they were away for years without their parents. The children were terrified and learned to shut down in order to cope. Authorities grabbed children as young as age five and took them to the residential schools. There was a loss of parenting skills. A generation of children were taken away from their parents so they did not learn the skills, leaving a huge void. Missionaries and church ministers had the right to tell you who to marry and forced young girls to marry older men with five or six children. ■■■■

So, as a result, people question what is right and what is wrong. People feel a lack of control. They have lost their language, culture, self-esteem, parenting skills, and traditional skills. The loss of self in a sexual manner is just one more thing. With

our youth, the bigger picture is a result of intergenerational trauma and colonization, sexual abuse, and poverty. ■■■

A lot of the solutions are very big-picture things. Overall, we need a whole campaign around healthy choices, emphasizing that people have the right to choose - over their body, health, education, drink, food, involvements, and activities. Lots of people don't think they have the right to make choices. We need to offer lots of activities that don't involve alcohol. Healthy food needs to be available in communities. We need to offer activities to build healthy relationships. ■■■

We need a cultural identity program to help people understand the past relocation programs of the 1920s and 1940s, and how that changed people's behaviour. Everyone is becoming aware of the history of the Inuit. ■■■ We need to help people realize what is going on; we need to find the best ways to engage them in healing. We need to really start the work. ■■■ We need to go to the Elders for advice. In the past, they were our teachers and police. In the 1940s, everything was taken away from them. Slowly, our Elders are regaining their role and respect. In the past, they were the gatekeepers for the community. Then all the gatekeepers were outsiders. ■■■

The Companies

Companies need to take responsibility for the behaviour of the men they hire. Contractors need to take responsibility for creating unsafe communities. The actions of some of the workers make them all look bad. ■■■ The culture of NL Hydro needs to be changed and the men must be held accountable for doing harm in communities. ■■■

The Justice System

It's disrespectful for court to be held in the bar. The trouble starts and ends in the bar. This shows no respect to anyone. There's no waiting room, only a hall where an abused woman will have to sit face to face with her abuser. There's absolutely no respect for the women. It's a disgusting message to the community, holding court in a bar. It shows the witnesses that the government and our justice system don't even respect them enough to put them in a respectful place for court. People get angry, clam up and keep to themselves, drink and do drugs, commit crimes and are back in the cycle again. ■■■

The Voices of Youth

In March 1998, 55 youth delegates with experience as sexually exploited children and youth from across North, Central and South America, gathered in Victoria, BC for an international summit. This five-day gathering included a young experiential woman from St. John's and a social worker from one of our community agencies.

The goal of the summit was to provide a venue for youth to speak about the sexual exploitation they experienced and to create a vision for change. By the end of the summit, the young people created a declaration and an agenda for action. Here we are, 13 years later, still trying to frame the issues. It's time for us to act.

The following Declaration and Agenda for Action are posted on the website for the International Centre to Combat Exploitation of Children: www.iccec.ca/declaration.html

Declaration

We, the sexually exploited child and youth delegates gathered in Victoria, Canada, for Out From the Shadows - International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth, declare the following:

- **We declare** that the term child or youth prostitute can no longer be used. These children and youth are sexually exploited and any language or reference to them must reflect this belief.
- **We declare** that the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth is a form of child abuse and slavery.
- **We declare** that all children and youth have the right to be protected from all forms of abuse, exploitation and the threat of abuse, harm or exploitation.
- **We declare** that the commercial exploitation of children and youth must no longer be financially profitable.
- **We declare** that all children and youth have the right to know their rights.
- **We declare** that the issue of child and youth sexual exploitation must be a global priority and nations must not only hold their neighbors accountable but also themselves.
- **We declare** that governments are obligated to create laws which reflect the principle of zero tolerance of all forms of abuse and exploitation of children and youth.

Agenda for Action

Our Agenda contains actions that are based on our beliefs. Our beliefs have come from what we have lived. To understand why these actions will work, you must understand our beliefs and the life experiences that have led to these beliefs.

We believe that education is vital in our struggle against the sexual exploitation of children and youth.

We believe that the voices and experiences of sexually exploited children and youth must be heard and be central to the development and implementation of action. We must be empowered to help ourselves.

We believe that we have a right to resources that are directed towards sexually exploited children and youth and our very diverse needs.

We believe that as children and youth, we are all vulnerable to sexual exploitation whether male, female, or transgendered.

We believe that our laws must protect us as sexually exploited children and youth and no longer punish us as criminals.

We believe that we are all responsible for our children and youth, yet the issue is not ours alone. Governments, communities and society as a whole must be held accountable for the sexual exploitation of children and youth.

Education

Education is vital in the struggle against the sexual exploitation of children and youth.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Recommendations

Prevention

Implement programs to educate all children and youth to recognize potential sexual exploitation and appropriate ways to protect and empower themselves. Educate the community as to who potential sexually exploited children and youth are and who the exploiters are and strategies for intervention.

Harm Reduction

Sexually exploited children and youth must be aware of their rights and fully educated in terms of health and safety issues.

Emergency Situations

Professionals such as doctors, counselors and police, who work with crisis situations, must be trained to recognize signs of sexual exploitation and know how to sensitively intervene.

Healing and Connecting

Sexually exploited children and youth need specialized academic education, as well as training in basic life skills.

Public Attitudes

The media has a responsibility to educate the public and to eliminate the stereotypes surrounding sexually exploited children and youth.

Section 37.1(a)(b)

Experiential Involvement

The voices and experiences of sexually exploited children and youth must be heard and be central to the development and implementation of action. We must be empowered to help ourselves.

“ Just as an alcoholic can help another alcoholic, youth can really help other youth with similar struggles. ”

Recommendations**Prevention**

The experiences of children and youth who have suffered sexual exploitation must be utilized in the formation of preventative programs.

Harm Reduction

Experiential youth must have the opportunity to develop and implement front-line programs for children and youth involved in the sex industry.

Crisis Situations

The expertise of the peers of sexually exploited children and youth must be acknowledged and utilized in crisis situations. These youth need to be actively involved in staffing hotlines, outreach programs, crisis counseling, peer mentoring and peer counseling.

Healing and Connecting

Opportunities must be provided for sexually exploited children and youth to connect with each other and themselves. Support groups facilitated by those who have experienced the sex trade provide a safe environment for healing and connecting.

Advocacy and Public Attitudes

Experiential children and youth can put faces to the issues. They can advocate for sexually exploited children and youth from a unique perspective. Forums must be developed for their stories to be heard and to effect both change and public attitudes. Youth, governments, corporations and communities must undertake hosting and funding of other international forums and summits to address this issue.

Resources and Support

We have a right to resources that are directed towards sexually exploited children and youth and our very diverse needs.

“ Suicide lines don’t know how to deal with the issues we deal with. They can’t cope with our reality. ”

“ The prostitutes in my country are very young and have no place to sleep. They sleep on the streets and this is when the men take advantage of them and rape them. ”

Recommendations

Prevention

Mentoring programs must be established for potentially vulnerable children and youth. Information about resources where sexually exploited children and youth can find assistance and support needs to be accessible.

Harm Reduction

Safe and adequate housing must be available for sexually exploited children and youth, where there is proper support in terms of health and emotional well-being and practical support including life skills, educational and vocational training.

Crisis Situation

All governments must take responsibility in establishing 24 hour help lines working in conjunction with crisis intervention services and outreach teams.

Healing and Connecting

The healing process involves finding the source of the problem. This takes time and long term consistent support from caring individuals including counselors and experiential peer supports. Safe environments need to be created where this can take place.

Advocacy and Public Attitudes

We want the right and the means to report people who abuse us. Governments and officials must commit to the issue of sexually exploited children and youth and provide funding and support for front-line workers and advocates.

Gender Issues

As children and youth, we are all vulnerable to sexual exploitation whether male, female, or transgendered.

“ I am turned away by prostitute agencies, I am turned away by the gay community, I am turned away by my friends and family because I am not only selling my body, but I am a guy and selling my body to guys. It’s not fair. ”

“ It is just as scary to think of young boys being equally vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation. ”

Recommendations

Prevention

Sexually exploited children and youth must have the opportunity to access resources regarding sexuality and sexual abuse. Educational programs must be developed to be implemented in schools, churches, social services, and other community centers.

Harm Reduction

Community and government action must be taken to support safer sex education as well as more effective policing of areas where male and transgender sexual exploitation takes place.

Crisis Situation

Sensitivity training for police, service providers, crisis phone line operators and other professionals regarding the sexual exploitation of children and youth, whether male, female or transgendered, must be developed and implemented.

Healing and Connecting

There is a need for governments and communities to support the development of peer-led support groups that focus on sexuality issues, exploitation issues and gender issues for young men. There is also a need to support us in identifying gay and transgendered adult role models or mentors in order to help in the development of healthy visions and views of the gay and transgendered community.

Advocacy and Public Attitudes

There is a need to recognize that not all males or youth who are exploited are gay or bisexual and to ensure that there is a voice for straight children and youth who are sexually exploited.

Legislative Action

Our laws must protect us as sexually exploited children and youth and no longer punish us as criminals.

“ It shouldn’t be O.K. to beat us up just because we are prostitutes. ”

“ For the children, we have to ask for harsher punishment of the pimps, bad dates and others who hurt us. ”

Recommendations

Prevention

Children or youth who are at high risk for sexual exploitation must be identified by those with authority and ability to intervene. Networking systems between service care providers must be utilized in order to prevent children “slipping between the cracks”.

Harm Reduction

Legislation must be passed for the prosecution of all those who buy, sell, facilitate or profit from the sexual exploitation of children and youth, whether directly or indirectly.

Crisis Situations

Prosecution of exploiters must not be dependent only on the testimony of the abused child or youth. The legislative process must protect the child and youth from further exploitation and trauma.

Healing and Connecting

Decriminalization of children and youth who have been exploited sexually is crucial to both the recovery process and their ability to connect, or reconnect, to society.

Advocacy and Public Attitudes

- Laws should reflect the belief that the sexual exploitation of children and youth is abuse. Governments must take on the responsibility of ensuring that sexually exploited children and youth are not prosecuted, but rather protected.
- Severe penalties must be imposed on all those profiting from the sexual exploitation of children and youth so that exploitation is no longer profitable. Penalties must include seizure of assets and monitoring of all financial activities. All moneys from such penalties should then be directed towards victims of these crimes.

Accountability

You will notice the difference in structure for Accountability. A delegate from South America wrote the following piece based on our belief that:

We are all responsible for our children and youth, yet the issue is not ours alone. Governments, communities and society as a whole must be held accountable for the sexual exploitation of children and youth.

The different model represents how diverse the issue of the sexual exploitation of children and youth is. No one answer will solve this global problem as it needs to be worked on by not only the global community, but national and local communities as well. It represents how we all have a part to play in working towards the solutions.

Below you will find a very descriptive and unique approach to the recommendations. Please listen to the youth of the world, our voices are our path to prevention, reducing harm, dealing with crisis situations, healing, and advocating for ourselves.

“ Child and youth prostitution is a reflection of the disease in society’s soul. ”

“ Many of us disappear without a trace. No one knows what happens to us when we die. ”

“ A child is murdered and no one cares because she is a prostitute. Society’s hands are just as bloody as the guy who did it. ”

Recommendations

The Responsibilities of Our Governments

“Our governments must find ways to stop the countries of the world from banning the import of artisan products. By doing so this would lessen the poverty and the sexual exploitation of children and youth. Our governments must insist that the police be less violent towards sex workers and sexually exploited children. They must help us and believe in us.

There should be politicians who advocate on our behalf. People who understand that we are as worthy as everyone else.

Also that there be social support for our families.

The wealthy must not judge us just because they have a lot. They must not let happen what is happening to us.

And I wish that for one minute - for just one minute - that they would put themselves in our place so they could understand and realize that we are people.

That they think of helping and not judging.

Society is the reason that children and youth are in the streets. It is why we are sex workers or children of the streets. It discriminates against us. Instead of helping, it pushes us further into sexual exploitation."

Specific to the levels of government, recommendations are:

- **Local Community**

Communities must develop a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary action plan implementing this Declaration and Agenda. Sexually exploited children and youth must be included in both the development and implementation of all efforts to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth.

- **National**

Governments must be obligated to provide bi-annual reports detailing their progress and efforts to address and eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth.

- **Global Communities**

An international multi-disciplinary, multi-faceted monitoring committee must be structured which includes visible participation of sexually exploited children and youth.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are designed as a starting point to assist the Provincial Government, agencies, and community organizations to begin the important work of responding to the girls, boys, women, and men who are sexually exploited or vulnerable to exploitation, and those who are working in the sex trade:

A. Setting the Direction

1. **Provincial Cabinet:** develop and adopt a Cabinet mandate to address the issues related to sexual exploitation, including prevention, enforcement, interventions, and supports.
2. **Ministers' Committee:** establish a cross-departmental committee. Membership would include, but not necessarily be limited to, the Women's Policy Office; Justice; Child, Youth and Family Services; Health and Community Services; Education; Human Resources, Labour and Employment; and Innovation, Trade and Rural Development. The work of the committee would include, but not be limited to, the following activities:
 - Review policies, programs, services, and legislation to assess the harm or the potential harm they may cause individuals vulnerable to sexual exploitation
 - Develop an integrated and collaborative cross-departmental approach to identifying and responding to issues related to sexual exploitation
 - Provide information to the Cabinet
3. **Collaborative Working Committee:** establish and resource a collaborative committee comprised of relevant government departments and agencies, members of the Coalition Against the Sexual Exploitation of Youth, the RNC, and the RCMP. The committee would be mandated to:
 - Develop directions for the work required to address the needs of those who have been exploited or are vulnerable to exploitation, including prevention, enforcement, interventions, and supports based on best practices
 - Provide information to the Ministers' Committee, government departments, agencies, community organizations, and the police

B. The Justice System

4. Sexual Exploitation Education and Training: educate the police, prosecution, and judges about sexual exploitation, sexual assault, and human trafficking, and further develop skills necessary for identifying, interviewing, and responding to potential victims, as well as prosecuting offenders
5. Collaborative Response: develop a collaborative response to sexual exploitation between the police, community agencies, and government services
6. Sexual Exploitation Investigations: mandate the enforcement of sexual exploitation and provide the dedicated resources required to conduct collaborative, reactive, and proactive investigations, with consequences for non-compliance
7. Internet Child Exploitation: create two amalgamated provincial child exploitation units (located in St. John's and Corner Brook) with the mandate, training, and resources required to conduct proactive and reactive investigations, as well as to respond to related emerging issues
8. Law Enforcement Requests: ensure that telecommunication companies are required to comply with Law Enforcement Requests for IP addresses suspected of accessing child pornography
9. Judges: make it mandatory for judges to look at and hear all the evidence presented in trials involving child pornography and other forms of sexual exploitation
10. Court Venues: ensure all court proceedings in the province are held in respectful surroundings; in particular, stop the current practice of holding court in barrooms
11. Psychological Support: provide mandatory entry, maintenance, and exit debriefing to everyone in the justice system who is involved with evidence related to child pornography and sexual exploitation, and ensure this support is normalized within the workplace culture
12. Special Initiatives for Victims Office: establish an office within the Department of Justice responsible for the coordination and accountability of police, crown, probation, and victim services' responses to individuals who have experienced violence, including those who have been sexually exploited. The office would assist in the coordination of training and service development, research best practices, and inform both the Ministers' Committee and the Collaborative Committee

C. Prevention and Support

- 13. CASEY:** provide organizational funding for an expanded provincial organization with three staff positions (Director, Public Education & Training Coordinator and Outreach Coordinator), and a mandate to:
- Develop working partnerships with all stakeholders, including government departments, agencies, and community organizations throughout the province
 - Assist stakeholders to build capacity to respond to the issues
 - Develop, coordinate, and deliver education to youth, parents, and service providers
 - Coordinate skill development training for service providers, including counselors, social workers, educators, youth workers, and health care providers
 - Research relevant issues, best practices, and program models
 - Create an outreach team of agency staff and experiential peers that reaches out to and connects with youth who are sexually exploited and adults who are working in the sex trade. The team would assist individuals to navigate government and community services, including crisis intervention, harm reduction, food, housing, clothing, health care, income, and court support. Services would be non-judgmental, inclusive, respectful, culturally appropriate, accepting of chaos and diversity, and able to respond to emergency situations.
- 14. Collaborative Exiting Program:** provide funding for a collaborative, peer driven, long-term program with a mandate to assist individuals with exiting the sex trade. The program would provide the following supports:
- Immediate emergency support
 - Immediate emergency funds for relocation
 - Peer support and peer counseling
 - Trauma counseling
 - Addictions support
 - Pre-employment support
 - Assistance in navigating mainstream services, programs, and supports

- Support would be available for the life of the individual and would be non-judgmental, inclusive, respectful, culturally appropriate, accepting of chaos and diversity, and able to respond to emergency situations

15. Workplace Protection: workplace health and safety regulations, and labour standards need to be applied to indoor sex trade businesses, including strip clubs, massage parlors and escort services.

16. Professional Education and Training

- Train current service providers, including social workers, counselors, health care providers, youth workers, addictions services, and educators in the skills required to identify and work with individuals who have been or are vulnerable to being sexually exploited
- Develop and implement curricula specific to sexual exploitation in relevant post-secondary faculties and programs, including police training, medical school, and schools of nursing, social work, education, and women's studies
- Ensure training materials are inclusive, culturally appropriate, and respectful of diversity

17. Department of Child, Youth and Family Services:

- Develop and implement a protocol to assess children and youth for sexual exploitation
- Develop and implement innovative outreach to youth who are sexually exploited
- Ensure that case planning for youth who have been or are at risk of being sexually exploited includes all appropriate supports specific to addressing sexual exploitation

18. Addictions Services

- Develop and implement a protocol to assess youth and adults for sexual exploitation
- Offer sexually exploited youth and adults in the sex trade with a choice of services designed to ensure their safety, including medical detox and out-of-province programming
- Incorporate programming modules specific to individuals in the sex trade within current addiction programs and counseling services

19. Health Care

- Enact legislation enabling access to anonymous STI/HIV testing
- Develop and implement a Street Nurse Program based on the BC Centre for Disease Control model
- Ensure health care providers are educated about sexual exploitation and have the skills to provide health care to exploited individuals in a sensitive and appropriate way
- Develop barrier-free health care services

20. Housing Choice

- Allow people to have a choice of where they live and sleep
- Provide individuals with a choice of emergency shelter options that can ensure their safety

21. Business and Industry

- Companies must take responsibility for the behaviour of the men they hire and change their workplace culture to eliminate sexual exploitation, particularly in Aboriginal communities.
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Conclusion

It's not enough to be compassionate.

We must act. ████████

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