

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN TURTLE ISLAND

January 28, 2023

Victoria Anti-Human Trafficking  
Youth Advisory Committee



# LEARNING PRINCIPLES & SAFETY

- Coping & grounding options
  - Ethical storytelling
  - Pictures used with permission, not associated with case studies or Survivor inputs
  - Trauma informed
- Integration of Indigenous knowledge & teachings

# TODAY'S SESSION

1. How much do we know about trafficking?
2. Human trafficking & colonization
3. What is exploitation, trafficking, and control
4. What, where, how?
5. Connection to land
6. Indigenous approaches to healing, solutions, resources



1. Human trafficking only happens in other countries.
2. Human trafficking only happens to foreign nationals, not Canadians.
3. Human trafficking is a small issue in Canada.
4. There are active traffickers in British Columbia targeting youth.
5. Traffickers target unmet needs in people, and offer a false promise to meet that need.
6. The three categories of human trafficking are labour, sex, and organs/tissues.
7. Trafficking survivors are resilient and are leading the way in Canada to end human trafficking.

## TRUE OR FALSE QUIZ

As we go through this exercise, we'll read through each question, and ask for you to raise your hand if you think the statement is true.

Remember, it's okay to not know, or to guess or be unsure, as today's session is about learning!

# KEY TERMS

TERM	DEFINITION
Colonization	When European settlers came to Turtle Island in 1604. They, as un-invited visitors, formed treaties with the welcoming Indigenous populations, and over time broke those treaties, stole land, institutionalized racism and genocide. Colonization is still very much alive today.
Turtle Island	The original name given to North America by the Indigenous peoples. The name originates from various creation stories of a turtle holding the world on it's back.

# WHAT WAS TURTLE ISLAND LIKE BEFORE COLONIZATION?

Womxn in many leadership roles

2 spirit people revered as sacred mediators

Living off the land in respect

No over-fishing

No deforestation

Rich and diverse languages

Men hunted, gathered, protected

Womxn had many roles, including harvested crops

Homes were movable/portable

No over-hunting

Rich spiritual connection with Creator

Networks of Indigenous people

# WHAT DID COLONIZATION IMPACT?

Removal of womxn from leadership

Mass abuse and genocide through Residential Schools

Destruction of land through Industry

Harm to oceans & forests

Womxn abused & trafficked

Languages forbidden

Men lead in government sponsored patriarchal leadership systems

Crop harvesting decreased, including Indigenous plants & herbs

Reserves were enforced

Exclusion from government

Generations of youth

Indigenous people lost touch with each other

AND SO MUCH MORE..

# WHAT IS EXPLOITATION?

Treating a person



UNFAIRLY to

BENEFIT from their

WORK/SERVICES



# LET'S BREAK THIS DOWN

Treating a person unfairly to benefit from their work.



UNFAIRLY	BENEFIT	WORK/SERVICES
- Paying below minimum wage, taking money that person has earned, cheating them	- MONEY	<b>Labour:</b> construction, work camps, agriculture, caregiving, hospitality, retail
- Making someone to do something they don't want to do, including criminal activity, tricking them, lying	- POWER	<b>Sexual Services:</b> images, sex trade involvement, erotic dancing and brothels, underage sexual services
- Using power to take advantage of someone, introducing them to danger, harming them	- GRATIFICATION	<b>Gang Work:</b> drug running, violence enforcement, collecting, fraud, sex trade involvement

# WHO IS TARGETTED FOR EXPLOITATION?

- Anyone
- Womxn and girls
- Youth under 18, youth online
- 2SLGBTQAI+ folx
- Those with family members in gangs or live near gangs
- Those with diverse abilities
- Those fleeing abusive homes
- Consensual adult sex workers
- Those using substances
- Single parents
- Youth in foster care/child welfare
- New immigrants & Migrant Workers
- Those experiencing poverty
- Those living in smaller towns & communities
- Those without natural supports
- Those struggling with mental health

# EXPLOITING LAND-EXPLOITING PEOPLE

“We see the exploitation of the land interlinked with the exploitation of people. Colonization, capitalism, and industry seeks to use and dispose of the land. We as Indigenous people are part of the land. Therefore that system seeks to exploit our beings as well. This is why when we acknowledge and live our calling as land protectors, that means we are people protectors as well.

We will lead the healing of our land and people.”

-Tungasuvvingat Inuit, Ontario

# WARNING SIGNS OF RECRUITMENT

- Age Difference
- Gifting
- Isolation
- Lifestyle Changes
- Gut Feeling

Source: Children of the Street Society

# SPOT THE SIGNS:

What elements of exploitation happened in this story?



# WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?



**CONTROLLING** a person

for the purpose of



**EXPLOITING** them

# SPOT THE PROGRESSION:

So when does exploitation become human trafficking?



# WHAT DOES CONTROL LOOK LIKE?

## TYPES OF CONTROL

### Deception

- lying, cheating, coercing, tricking, pressuring, faking documents, introducing substances, isolating, gifting

### Violent Actions

- threatening, violence, forcing substance use, using weapons, withholding food/medication/ID/housing/substances, controlling movement and actions, confinement

### Relationships

- sharing images without your consent, harm towards family and pets, withholding or giving excessive love and affection



# WHERE & HOW DOES IT HAPPEN?



WHERE YOUTH HANG  
OUT



INDUSTRY, WORK  
CAMPS, FARMS



HOUSE PARTIES, CLUBS



HITCHHIKING  
CABS/RIDESHARING/  
FERRIES



GANGS, ORGANIZED  
CRIME



FRIENDS, RELATIONSHIPS,  
SUGARING, ONLY FANS



SCHOOL



SOCIAL MEDIA,  
ONLINE GAMING

# HEALING DEFINED BY INDIGENOUS SURVIVORS



1) Reconnection to culture and practice: drum circle, pow wow's, dancing, beading, sweat lodge, smudging, land based teachings

2) Special moments, events, celebrations: graduations, Gathering Our Voices, etc...

3) Explore identity & lineage- find a sense of belonging again

# HEALING DEFINED BY INDIGENOUS SURVIVORS



4) Mentorship/Elders/Positive Role Models, Leadership Opportunities

5) Mental health & addictions support from an Indigenous perspective

6) Primary care inclusive of the medicine wheel & Indigenous teachings

7) Custody of children reinstated



# CLAN MOTHERS WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

Developed  
[experientialvoices.ca](http://experientialvoices.ca);

- This project celebrates the lived experience leadership, stories, knowledge, solutions, and actions of persons with lived experiences of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking

<https://www.experientialvoices.ca/what-needs-to-be-done/>

# WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?

If you or someone you know may be at risk or being exploited and trafficked:

## Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking

- Free, confidential, trauma informed
- Parents, friends, families, those affected
- Information, connection to resources, safety planning,
- access to emergent help if needed
- Call, text: 1-833-993-7867
- Email: [info@CCTEHT.ca](mailto:info@CCTEHT.ca)



# REFLECTION QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION