

Human sex trafficking and sexual exploitation for the purpose of prostitution is the fastest growing crime in the world. It is a lucrative crime targeting our youth, children, and the vulnerable.



You can help stop sexual exploitation starting in your community:

**Learn** about the issue.

**Share** it with others.

**Alert** your politicians that sexual exploitation must stop.

An Anti-Human Trafficking Initiative

**BeAmazingCampaign.org**

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Canadian National Human Trafficking Hotline

**1-833-900-1010**

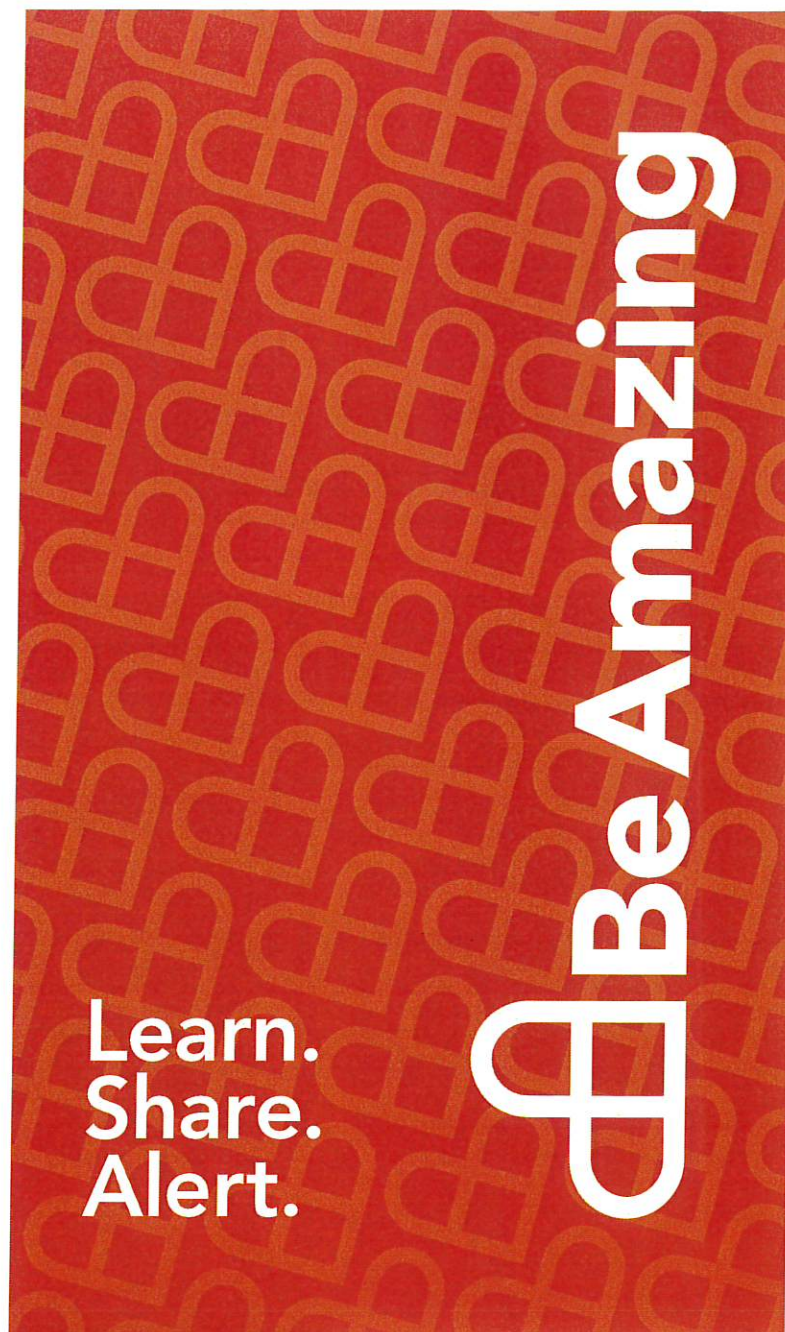


An Anti-Human Trafficking Initiative

PRESENTED BY

**Cathy Peters**

BeAmazingCampaign.org



# A modern equal society does not buy and sell women and children.

Cathy Peters raises awareness about the issue of human sex trafficking, sexual exploitation and child sexual trafficking which is for the purpose of prostitution. She speaks and presents to politicians, police and the public.



Today's slavery has low costs and huge profits; a trafficker can make hundreds of thousands of dollars **per victim** per year.

The average age of entry into prostitution is 12–14 years of age in Canada, although traffickers are targeting children as young as 8. There has been a dramatic increase in child exploitation along with the production and consumption of child pornography. Unregulated technology has increased the demand for commercially paid sex.

The biggest problem in Canada is that the public is unaware of the issue. Women, youth, children, the marginalized and vulnerable will become potential targets and victims unless we do something to stop it.

**Learn. Share. Alert.**  
[BeAmazingCampaign.org](http://BeAmazingCampaign.org)

Cathy Peters is a former inner city high school teacher and since 2014 has made 450 presentations to over 15,000 people.

Cathy has received 10 Challenge Coins for her work and advocacy from Kitimat, North Vancouver, Coquitlam, Richmond, Surrey, and the Chilliwack RCMP detachments, RCMP HQ Counter Exploitation Unit, from the New Westminister Police Department after presenting at the Justice Institute in New Westminister, the Delta Police Department, and Vancouver Police Department.

Cathy's work was introduced in the BC Legislature, she has participated in two Federal Justice Committee Human Trafficking Roundtables in Vancouver, and contributed a Federal Public Safety Consultation brief in 2018. In response to MMIWG Inquiry, Cathy presented to the Okanagan Native Alliance (2020, 2021) on how to protect indigenous women and girls. She was nominated for an Order of BC and for the Carol Matusicky Distinguished Service to Families Award.

Cathy's goal is to "traffick-proof" every community in BC and to prevent the full decriminalization of prostitution in Canada.

# Preventing Child Sex Trafficking in BC

**Buying and selling children for sex is one of the fastest growing crimes in Canada, and it is happening in communities across BC.**

**Globalization, unregulated technology, lack of law enforcement and inadequate prevention education** is allowing this crime to grow globally.

Human sex trafficking (HT) involves the recruitment, transportation or harbouring of people for the purpose of exploitation through the use of force, coercion, fraud, deception or threats against the victim or person known to them. It is known as modern day slavery. According to the US State department's annual global report on trafficking in persons (TIP), Canada is a source, transit and destination for sex trafficking. (<https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/>)

Child sex trafficking is a lucrative crime. It has low costs and huge profits; a trafficker can make \$280,000 per victim, per year. The average age of entry into prostitution in Canada is 12-14 years of age, although traffickers are known to target younger children. Traffickers seek young victims both to service the demand for sex with those who look young, and because these victims are easier to manipulate and control.

The biggest problem in Canada is that people do not know there is a problem; therefore, child sex trafficking is expanding in the dark. Every child can be a target and a potential victim, but learning about this issue is the first step.

**Five things that parents can do to help prevent their children from being lured into sex trafficking:**

## **1. Set a high standard of love within your home**

The way you define and express love shapes your children's self-image, confidence and opinions of future relationships. Treat them the way you want their future partners to treat them. Help them to distinguish between real love and empty promises or cheap gifts.

## **2. Talk to your children about sexual abuse**

According to the US Department of Justice, someone in the US is sexually assaulted every two minutes, of which 29% are between the ages of 12-17. Let your children know that if anyone has or ever does hurt them, they can talk to you. This is the most important thing you can say. Don't assume they have not been hurt by sexual violence before. Leave the door open for your child to talk about past circumstances that they haven't shared with you.

## **3. Talk to your children about sex trafficking**

Discuss ways children and teens are targeted for sex trafficking. Let them know that traffickers specifically try to woo young girls and boys with promises of a better life – whether it's promises of love and attention, or promises of nice things and trips. Traffickers can be male or female, even classmates. Traffickers may even use kids to recruit other kids.

## **4. Talk to your children about the dangers of social media**

It is important to provide practical safety tips, such as: don't share personal information on the internet; don't accept Facebook requests from unknown people; NEVER share naked photos of yourself with anyone; and tell a parent or a trusted adult if you feel threatened or uncomfortable online. Children also need help defining friendships. Teach them that a friend is not someone you met yesterday and that a "friend" on Facebook is not the same thing as a friendship.

## 5. Pay attention to your children

Monitor your children's social media accounts. Look for ways to meet their friends, their friends' parents and those they hang out with. Be alert to boyfriends who are much older, or friendships that tend to isolate your child from other friends or family. Notice if your child has new clothing items, makeup products, cell phone or other items and ask how they acquired them.

### Resources and Links:

- Covenant House (crises program for ages 16-24): [info@covenanthousebc.org](mailto:info@covenanthousebc.org), 604-685-7474
- Internet Safety Tips: [www.Cybertip.ca](http://www.Cybertip.ca)
- Fraser Health Forensic Nurse Service
- Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868
- Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons (OCTIP): 1-888-712-7974 (24/7 interpretation available), 604-660-5199, [octip@gov.bc.ca](mailto:octip@gov.bc.ca)
- Plea Community Services Society (assisting youth 24/7): [onyx@plea.bc.ca](mailto:onyx@plea.bc.ca), 604-708-2647
- Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter (24/7): 604-872-8212, [info@rapereliefshelter.bc.ca](mailto:info@rapereliefshelter.bc.ca)
- RCMP: Victims of Human Trafficking National Headquarters (24 hours): 1-866-677-7267
- Trafficking Resource Centre (USA): [www.traffickingresourcecenter.org](http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org)
- VictimLinkBC (24/7): 1-800-563-0808 Ministry of Public Safety, BC
- Youth Against Violence (24/7): [info@youthagainstviolenceline.com](mailto:info@youthagainstviolenceline.com), 1-800-680-4264

### Authorities Contacts:

- RCMP: [www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca); 1-855-850-4640 OR 1-800-771-5401
- Ministry of Child Protection Services: 1-800-663-9122 or 604-660-4927 (24 hours) or 310-1234 if a child is in danger to reach Ministry of Child and Family Development
- Crime Stoppers : 1-800-222-TIPS (8477)

**National Human Trafficking Crisis Hotline Number: 1-866-528-7109**

### About the Author:

Cathy Peters raises awareness of Child Sex Trafficking to all three levels of government in British Columbia, police agencies and the public. She is a former inner city high school teacher and has volunteered for two Members of Parliament (John Weston/BC, Joy Smith/Manitoba). She has made hundreds of presentations, including to City Councils, School Boards, Police Boards, high schools, universities and law enforcement agencies.

For information about her prevention education presentations, please contact Cathy Peters at [ca.peters@telus.net](mailto:ca.peters@telus.net)

### Additional Resources:

**Children of the Street Society (Coquitlam)** provides prevention education in BC schools; 25,000 students last school year Grades 3-12. They have an excellent website with tools/resources listed for every community in BC:

<https://www.childrenofthestreet.com/>

**Joy Smith Foundation (Manitoba)** provides prevention education, resources and an overview of human sex trafficking Canada: <http://www.joysmithfoundation.com/>

**Shared Hope International (Washington State)** sponsors The JuST (Juvenile Sex Trafficking) Conference in the USA; an event that spotlights the most pressing issues in the anti-trafficking field. Visit: [www.justconference.org](http://www.justconference.org) for more information.

A MODERN EQUAL SOCIETY DOES NOT BUY AND SELL WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

## **8 strategies for Cities and Municipalities to consider:**

**Key: A Modern Equal Society does not buy and sell women and children.**

1. Learn about the issue at [www.beamazingcampaign.org](http://www.beamazingcampaign.org), read "Invisible Chains" by Benjamin Perrin (UBC Law professor), follow Human trafficking expert in Canada former Manitoba MP Joy Smith at [www.joysmithfoundation.com](http://www.joysmithfoundation.com). Have staff take the BC OCTIP (Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons) **free online course**. Encourage police to take HT course on the **Police Knowledge Network**.
2. Incorporate the United Nations 4 Pillars in a local strategy to stop Human trafficking/sexual exploitation: **Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, Partnerships**.
3. **Prevention:** raise awareness in community. Children of the Street (Plea) does school and community programs. Encourage "Men End Exploitation" movements: Moosehide Campaign, Westcoast Boys Club Network. Support porn addiction services for youth; "Fightthenewdrug" program recognizing the public health effects to youth of viewing violent sexual material. Use communications to raise awareness: Ontario has "Saving the girl next door program", the RCMP has the "I'm Not for Sale" campaign. King County (Seattle) has "Buyer Beware" program.
4. **Protection:** help victims, have exit strategies in place for them, consider 24-7 "wrap-around programs" Salvation Army "Deborah's Gate", Covenant House, Servants Anonymous, Union Gospel Mission.
5. **Prosecution:** increase policing budget, training and priorities. Have "buyer" deterrents in place, enforce the law; "**Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act**" which addresses "**demand**"- the profiteers, facilitators, buyers of commercially paid sex.
6. **Partnerships:** Train community stakeholders: Health care workers, fire department, municipal business licensing managers, educators, businesses to recognize human trafficking/sexual exploitation. Fraser Health Authority has a human trafficking protocol, Surrey Fire department is trained to recognize HT indicators. Train judges/Crown Counsel/criminal justice system.
7. **Partnerships:** Collaboration: with other cities and municipalities at local government associations, Police agencies and RCMP, 3 levels of government (civic, provincial, federal); UBCM, FCM with Resolutions.
8. Do not accept or support the full decriminalization of prostitution because the vulnerable (Indigenous women and girls, new migrants) in our communities are the targets being lured, groomed and exploited for the sex industry. **Goal:** safe, healthy, vibrant communities that are fit for families, youth, children and all vulnerable populations.

**National Human Trafficking Hotline Number: 1-833-900-1010**

## **Forensic Nursing Service @ Fraser Health**

Fraser Health Authority has designed a **Human Trafficking Screening Protocol**, with the following sample questions:

What type of work do you do?

Can you leave your job or situation if you want?

Can you come and go as you please?

Have you been threatened if you try to leave?

Have you been physically harmed in any way?

What are your working or living conditions like?

Where do you sleep and eat?

Do you sleep in a bed, cot or on the floor?

Have you been deprived of food, water, sleep or medical care?

Do you have permission to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom?

Are there locks on your doors and windows so you cannot get out?

Has anyone threatened your family?

Has your identification for documentation been taken from you?

Is anyone forcing you to do anything that you do not want to do?

**Evaluation of safety:** Are you feeling safe right now? Is it safe for me to talk to you? Do you have any concerns for your safety? Is there anything I can do for you?