

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: November 12, 2021 9:45 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: Child Sex Trafficking is increasing- How To Stop It
Attachments: CPeters - Vancouver Police Board meeting.pdf

From:
Sent: November 12, 2021 7:57 AM
To: Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>
Subject: Child Sex Trafficking is increasing- How To Stop It

Dear Chair Karla Kozakevich and Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District Board,
ASKS:

1. The **Canadian Center to End Human Trafficking** (CCEHT) recently came out with their first report on Human Trafficking in Canada. Please read this important report to understand the Human trafficking trends in Canada.
2. BC needs a public awareness campaign on Human Trafficking in order to STOP IT. The CCEHT will mail your community posters and postcards (FREE) that can be distributed in the venues where youth and families congregate. The CCEHT operates the National Human Trafficking hotline; 1-833-900-1010.
3. I recently presented to the **Vancouver Police Board**. It is a 5 minute presentation. See attached. Please share this with your policing committee and local law enforcement.
4. Please alert your local MLA and MP that the full decriminalization of prostitution cannot occur in Canada because that policy will cause HARM to the most vulnerable; Indigenous women and girls, new migrants, disabled, LGBTQ2, youth at risk and any child under age 14 years of age. Canada has signed the **Palermo Protocol** which mandates discouraging DEMAND for buying sex (Article 9 section 5). Canada has a legal global obligation to fulfill this commitment. Special Advisor on Human Trafficking Valiant Richey in his recent OSCE (Organization for the Security and Co-operation in Europe- the world's largest security organization) report called "**Discouraging Demand**" cites strategies and examples on how to do so, in order to Stop Human Trafficking globally.
5. Reminder of the **Connecting to Protect Global Summit** addressing the impact of Pornography on Youth (February 16-18, 2022). I will be presenting along with Vancouver Island University student Tagen Marshall. Please attend and alert Health/Wellness Committees of this important Summit.

Thank you to the many City Councils and Regional Districts that have asked me to present.
I am booking now for mid March.

Sincerely, Cathy Peters
BC anti-human trafficking educator, speaker, advocate
Be Amazing; Stop Sexual Exploitation
beamazingcampaign.org

Vancouver Police Board Meeting October 21, 2021 @ 1 pm – 5 minutes

Human sex trafficking and sexual exploitation for the purpose of prostitution is the fastest growing crime in the world and here.

What is human trafficking? It is the recruiting, transporting, transferring, receiving, holding, concealing, harbouring or exercising control over a person for the purpose of exploiting them. The key word is EXPLOITATION.

STATS:

- 13 years old is the average age of recruitment, much younger for Indigenous girls. In the Lower Mainland the target age is 10-12-year-old girls. CoVid has made this worse; traffickers are organized and sophisticated.
- 54% in the sex trade are Indigenous- 70-90% in urban centers- they are severely over-represented in the sex industry- this is the worst case of systemic racism in the country.
- **82% involved in prostitution had childhood sexual abuse/incest**
- 72% live with complex PTSD
- 95% in prostitution want to leave- it is NOT a choice or a job
- 86% have housing needs
- 82% need drug rehab
- **84% of prostituted persons are pimped or trafficked** so organized crime and International crime syndicates are typically involved. Crime follows the money and traffickers make hundreds of thousands of dollars per victim per year.

I have been raising awareness about sexual exploitation and Child Sex Trafficking, to every City Council, MLA, MP and police agency in BC since [The Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act \(PCEPA\)](#) became Federal Law in 2014, so that police would enforce it, the public would understand it and be able to report it.

The Law has 4 parts:

1. **Targets the DEMAND by targeting the buyer of sex. The trafficker, facilitator, john, buyer of sex are criminalized**
2. **Recognizes the seller of sex as a victim; usually female and is immune from prosecution**
3. **Exit strategies are in place to assist the victim out of the sex trade.**
4. **There is a robust prevention education program in place so youth, children and the vulnerable are not pulled into the sex industry.**

This Law focuses on the **source of harm**: the buyers of sex and the profiteers. The clear statement from Parliament was that girls and women in Canada are **NOT FOR SALE**; that they are full human beings, with dignity and human rights.

This LAW is not enforced in BC or Vancouver.

Vancouver and Toronto are global sex tourism hotspots.

Canada is a **Child Sex Tourism** destination.

The global sex trade is growing FAST, targeting our children (children is where the money is), fueled by the internet where most of the luring is taking place.

Contributing factors to a rapidly growing sex industry is **globalization, unregulated technology, limited law enforcement and very little prevention education.**

Canada has a new **National Human Trafficking Hotline number: 1-833-900-1010.** Provincially OCTIP and VictimLink has a helpline.

Pornography is fueling the sex industry and creating the market for commercially paid sex. Men and boys are the buyers of sex and are the KEY to end exploitation. **Boys and men must understand that there is a sacred part of the woman they have no right to.**

What Can Vancouver Do?

Reduce Demand by targeting complicit businesses, **Diminish Supply** by Education/public awareness.

The businesses most involved in Vancouver; unregistered massage and body rub parlours- not giving licenses out to these would cut human trafficking drastically.

Nail spas, day spas, modelling agencies, tattoo parlours, escort services, cheap bars and hotels, men's clubs, Airbnb, VRBO, casinos, strip clubs, organized crime club houses, bus stops, homeless camps and tent cities can all be typical covers for sexual exploitation.

Crime club houses can be removed by land use bylaws. This was done in Manitoba. In Ontario, every motel and hotel guest has to be registered who is physically in the room.

The sex industry is targeting our youth, children and vulnerable in every BC community, and schools have become **recruiting grounds for gangs and sex trafficking.** A critical deterrent is the School Liaison Officer Program; the officers prevent crime and protect the vulnerable. An Anti-police narrative harms our communities; and VPD is now removed from Vancouver schools, so organized crime can move in.

BC is behind every Province in Canada by not enforcing the Federal Law or providing prevention education.

2 ASKS:

1. Could I do a deeper dive presentation to the Police Board and do a presentation to Vancouver City Council?

Note: I have presented to over 100 communities in BC.

2. Could you alert the Premier and Solicitor General that this crime is a priority in BC and ask for considerable funding for Provincial law enforcement and a Provincial awareness campaign? BC needs an **inter-agency Human Sex Trafficking Task Force** similar to what is available for drugs and gangs.