

**A REPORT FOR
THE CALGARY
COMMUNITY
ACTION PLAN
ON HUMAN
TRAFFICKING**

**EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY**

Community
perspectives on
the landscape
and realities of
**HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
IN CALGARY**



Acknowledgements

This project took place on the traditional territory of the Siksika, Kainai, Piikani, Nakoda and the Tsuut'ina Nations and the Métis Nation of Region 3. The City of Calgary resides in Treaty 7 Lands within Traditional BlackFoot Territory. We would also like to acknowledge the First Peoples who resided on these lands before the treaties were created and signed.

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We also acknowledge the following partners who formed the Project Steering Committee and contributed their time, wisdom, and resources to the project.

PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

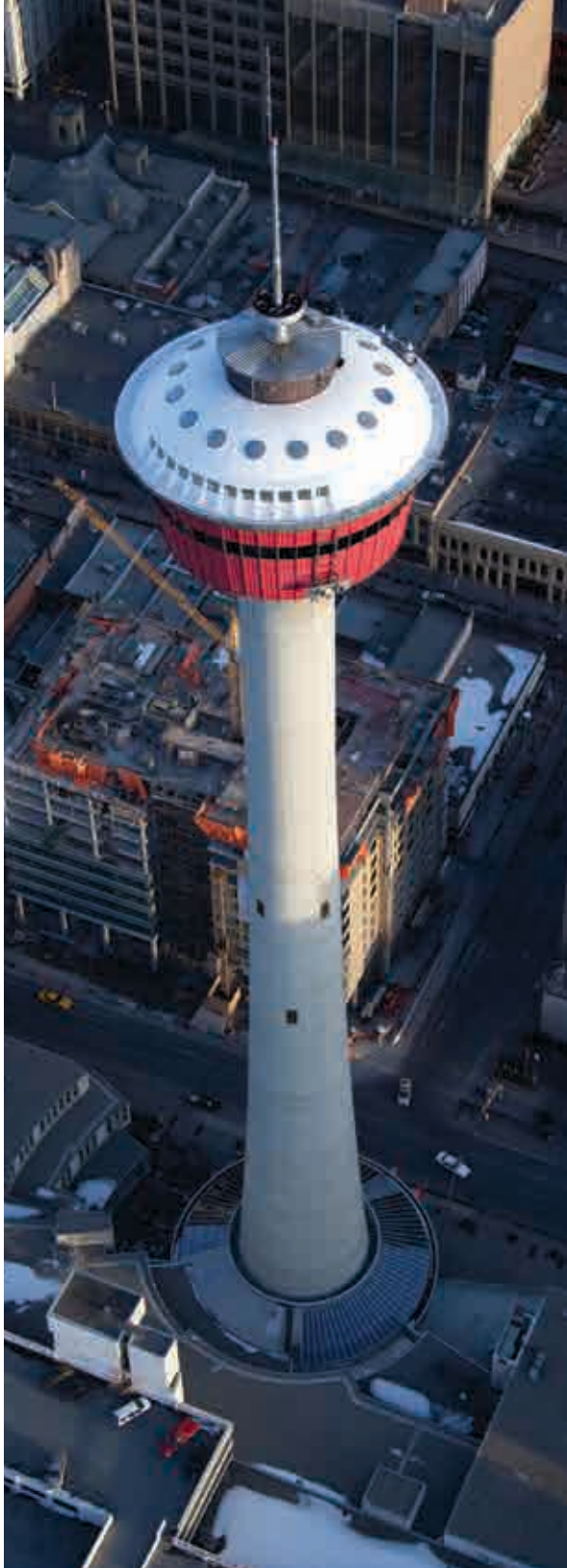
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ABOUT ACT ALBERTA

The Action Coalition on Human Trafficking Alberta Association (ACT Alberta) is a nongovernmental organization mandated to identify and respond to all forms of human trafficking in Alberta. ACT Alberta's programs include coordinating services individuals who have experienced trafficking, providing training to front-line service providers, engaging and educating the public, researching and collecting data on human trafficking, managing a Victims Assistance Fund, helping to develop policy provincially and nationally, and creating community-based responses to human trafficking. In addition, ACT Alberta works collaboratively with government agencies, law enforcement, and NGOs to identify the needs of victims and respond to human trafficking provincially through chapters in Calgary and Edmonton.

INTRODUCTION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Human trafficking is a worldwide violation of human rights that cuts across cultural, geographic, social, and economic boundaries. At the time of this project, there was little published about the landscape and dynamics of human trafficking in Calgary. This project was commissioned in 2017 by the City of Calgary through the Crime Prevention Investment Plan (CPIP). The objectives of this project are three-fold. First, within the first year of community engagement, to gain knowledge and understanding of the landscape of human trafficking in Calgary: the root causes, the nature of human trafficking, and the response and service landscape in the city. Second, to utilize this knowledge and relationships built within the community to work together to create a strategic action plan, where all stakeholders are willing to take responsibility and commit to meaningful actionable items within their everyday work. And third, in phase three, to implement these strategies and work to prevent human trafficking and to support victims through community-identified best practices.

A core group of 12 agencies in Calgary formed the project steering committee (PSC) that provided a forum for guidance, organization, monitoring and accountability. A parallel Indigenous Sister Approach was undertaken with Knowledge Holders in Calgary, who guided our learnings of human trafficking from an Indigenous worldview, where oral methodologies and processes were critical.

Ultimately, 96 individuals took part in interviews in the general Calgary community engagement. Of these, 16 group interviews took place and an additional 28 one-on-one interviews were conducted. Of these, 14.5% of participants had relevant lived experience, 65% came from the non-profit sector, and 17.5% came from government agencies. The Indigenous Sister Approach included an additional 30 individuals; 66.6% Knowledge Holders and 33.3% came from Indigenous agencies and communities. Information was collected through ceremony and circle discussion.

The majority of individual and group interviews were audio-recorded and transcribed. Interviews were coded utilizing qualitative software and analyzed by theme to pinpoint patterns within the data. The core learnings in this report speak to the messy landscape of human trafficking in Calgary. In analyzing the data, we did not find clear answers to the research questions that could easily be presented in a simple format. This report presents community engagement findings with a focus on nuance, sharing the viewpoints and exploring the intersections of trafficking with issues such as domestic violence, of young people and intra community trafficking, of harm reduction and the fight of many service providers to keep their clients safe when they know they are currently being trafficked, and of why efforts can sometimes fail. Our goal in this report is to share these dominant themes, and the complex and layered realities which have ultimately fostered the development of the Calgary Community Action Plan on Human Trafficking.

CORE LEARNINGS ON THE LANDSCAPE AND REALITIES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Among community participants, there was consensus that sex workers are a group that may be at increased risk for sex trafficking in Calgary. However, within these conversations, a large number of participants felt that it was equally important **to acknowledge the legitimacy of choice-based sex workers in Calgary**, and recognize the increased risks for violence these individuals face due to the current laws in Canada around sex work.

Both domestic violence and human trafficking are human rights violations, and forms of trauma that can have long term impacts on physical, emotional and mental health. Participants in this engagement highlighted the need **to widen the lens of understanding violence and coercion within trafficking relationships beyond typical trafficking narratives**. There is often not an easy out for individuals in these dynamic domestic violence and trafficking situations. In some cases, relationships are not always marred by violence, or possibly even an intention to deceive. Indeed, **episodes of violence and trafficking may be interrupted by periods of calm, child rearing or even love and consent**. Participants in Calgary advocated for an intersectional view of violent behaviour across various landscapes and the life course, where trafficking experiences may be one instance or label for a particular experience or moment in time.

Many front-line service providers described a **spectrum framework for understanding the vulnerability of youth to exploitation**. At one end of the spectrum are youth who become disengaged from school and community life, and experiment with risky behaviours. At the other end are youth living on the margins, including young people who are incarcerated, and disaffected street youth who survive through illicit activities such as gangs and drug trafficking. Participants described these



young people as entrenched and the most at risk in Calgary. Root causes were described as childhood trauma, abuse, homelessness, mental health challenges, and addiction. **Self-esteem, looking for love, acceptance and belonging** were also highlighted as critical to understanding vulnerability.

We are only just beginning to **recognize the scale of young people who are being exploited, but who are not being used by traffickers or pimps**. Young people are utilizing social media to sell themselves for sexual services and are not always involved with traffickers. In other cases, young people are trafficking each other; intra-community trafficking was presented as occurring across Calgary, especially with entrenched young people. Drug use was seen to be a major barrier for young people to exit their exploitative relationships and situations, where abstinence was an entry point for service provision.

A number of service providers sounded **the alarm for risk factors related to young people between the ages of 18-24**, where supports diminish, transitions to adulthood entail more responsibility and financial pressures, and Protection of Sexually Exploited Children's Act (PSECA)-funded supports and options no longer exist.

Within the Indigenous Sister Approach, we learned of **the critical importance of the methodological approach**; indeed, the pathways we take to collect data are as important as the data itself. Honouring Knowledge Holders and oral methodological protocols are key to understanding. Participants spoke of **the atrocities within intergenerational trauma**; the abuses perpetrated within Indigenous communities in subsequent generations, and **the complex nature of shame** that is endemic in families and communities who are living with the consequences of the residential school system. The 'scraping-off' of layers of trauma

were highlighted as critical for understanding and healing. Indigenous learnings also included the significance of healing communities, which also include those who have violated, or exploited, or perpetrated violence. We need to understand and acknowledge that **forgiveness of the perpetrator may be part of community healing.**

One of the most critical findings was the underreported, underemphasized, and hidden nature of **human trafficking for individuals with disabilities in Calgary**, and the dire need to take action as a community to protect these individuals and support their healing. The intersections between trauma, disability and domestic violence are complex and **sometimes interwoven over the life course.** The desire **to be respected, to belong, to be loved** is immense, and by marginalizing these individuals in systemic and every day ways, our societies are further exacerbating risks, and allowing abuse and exploitation to continue.

There is near **universal acceptance of the realities of labour exploitation and trafficking** and the risk factors and root causes for its endemic nature in Canada and Calgary. Participants highlighted how the immigration system itself has forced migrant workers into situations where they are unable to leave an abusive employer. While the employer is the abuser, exploiter, or trafficker, the Canadian immigration system stands by, arguably complicit by account of not working to change the system and continuing a status quo where migrant rights are expendable. A growing concern was also the **interconnection of labour and sex trafficking.** In such scenarios, participants reflected that these were not cases where individuals were trafficked into Canada for the purpose of sexual exploitation and trafficking in the sex industry. **Pathways into sex trafficking tended to be more informal, and potentially more insidious.**

BEST PRACTICES FOR PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

Human trafficking is an assault to human dignity and impacts the biological, psychological and the social dimensions of the trafficked individual. The causes and consequences are intricately woven together and easy solutions are not readily available (Sen and Baba, 2017). Although it is difficult to mend the wounds completely, service providers can help to restore dignity, to build new lives, and to advocate and ensure justice for survivors (Maney et al., 2011).

Across the board, the critical importance of **safe shelter, mental health and addiction services** were seen to be either lacking or inappropriate, especially for young people, and male and transgender survivors.

Anti-oppressive practice where survivors **own their own stories** and can determine their services and supports as they are ready. Approaches to care must also be **victim-centred** which stress that **empowering the person, offering choices, and respecting their decisions** is the most effective means of meeting needs and goals.

Building relationships based in **dignity, compassion and care.** Consistently non-judgmental, acknowledgement of a person's story even if the justice system is not or will not be involved.

Numerous participants pointed to harm reduction approaches as a critical tool in building relationships and trust to keeping individuals safe when they are not in a position leave their exploitative relationships or situations. This was true in the case of young people as well, including those under 18 but nearing the age of adulthood when PSECA supports and options for safety decrease.

Those with relevant lived experience highlighted the **important role that peer support programs** could serve for individuals who have experienced trafficking. This was the case for those who had been exploited in labour markets, newcomers to Calgary, male or female, or within experiences of sex trafficking and young people.

Participants highlighted the need for community, law enforcement and providers to understand that lifetime cumulative **trauma occurs on a continuum rather than as isolated incidents. Trauma-informed care must be at the center** of all approaches.

In order to look at both prevention (with a focus on perpetrators and also purchasers of sex), **men and boys need to be engaged as allies.**

Lastly, we need to **look beyond the initial crisis and exiting of individuals** who have been trafficked and acknowledge their long-term challenges in terms of healing and moving forward with their lives. A number of individuals highlighted the lack of long-term support, and the barriers to what life will look like after exiting a trafficking situation or relationship. ■

Community Identified Priorities

To remain transparent and collaborative, we hosted two community forums in 2018 to share the findings of our community engagement and co-create tangible steps forward. As a result, the community identified a number of initiatives that must be addressed in order to move the needle on human trafficking in Calgary.

The following sections are the priority initiatives identified by people with lived experience, key informants, service providers, law enforcement and government officials that were interviewed in our 2018 community engagement efforts. These initiatives are recommendations that pertain to specific service areas and populations within the context of preventing or responding to human trafficking.

Please note: Whereas some initiatives are accompanied by suggested strategies, the goal was not to create specific strategies but rather highlight initiatives that act as starting points to further action.

The following information was collected during the 2018 community engagement portion of the Calgary Action Plan on Human Trafficking. This information does not reflect the opinions of ACT Alberta but rather captures the comments & sentiments of participants.

COMPASSION & DIGNITY IN CARE

Overwhelmingly, our participants stressed the need to be rooted in compassion and dignity when working with those who have been trafficked. Allowing clients to make mistakes and take ownership over their service delivery is critical to building trust and mutual respect. Recognizing one's humanity goes a long way in acknowledging their experiences and not trying to fix or judge them.

Table 1 Priority initiatives for compassion & dignity in care

Initiatives & Recommendations	Suggested Actions/ Strategies
Compassion first	Work from compassion and treat people with humanity in any situation
Use the language and titles directed to you by the client. Don't get hung up on labels	Use the client's language and labels Provide support in people's native languages
Form meaningful relationships with HT clients and get to know them	Prioritize work time to connect to these clients Reduce the size of caseloads
Ensure a client has autonomy over their service delivery	Create internal policies to safe guard a client's autonomy over their service delivery
Listen to the community first	
Believe a client's story	
Create an open, safe and welcoming environment for youth to express themselves	Speak to youth like adults, don't shy away from difficult subject matter
Form meaningful relationships with youth and build trust	

Table 1 Priority initiatives for compassion & dignity in care

Initiatives & Recommendations	Suggested Actions/ Strategies
Acknowledge and end the racism towards Indigenous people in Calgary	
Encourage Indigenous ways of knowing and doing	
Acknowledge the impacts of colonialism and residential schools on Indigenous people	
Recognize that people with physical and developmental disabilities are sexual beings too	
Practice dignity for all	<p>Work with constant non-judgement; end client shaming and labelling. End moral judgment</p> <p>Stop trying to 'fix' women, listen first</p> <p>Have your agency adopt dignity as a core value and plan how to enact this</p>

ACCESS TO SERVICES & NAVIGATION

The majority of project participants agreed that access to services to all regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, valid ID, or legal status was a priority moving forward. Accompanying this idea is the creation of more community referral points and improved system navigation. Simply having services was not enough, access and navigation is paramount to a client recovery.

Table 2 Priority initiatives for access to services & navigation

Initiatives	Suggested Actions/ Strategies
Create more avenues for referral points for service access	When referring people, connect them with other services directly, people to people, do not refer them to systems
Provide services to all people regardless of valid ID, legal status in Canada	Creation of policies around access without fear
To support parents in gaining access to all services for their children & system navigation	Have programs go to the community
Support women with services regardless of how they identify or their occupation	Adopt a harm reduction approach
Provide more services along the continuum of the sex work experience	
Employ a gender lens when looking at access to services	Create a gender-based analysis lens policy at your agency

COLLABORATION BETWEEN SERVICE PROVIDERS

Participants highlighted the need for increased opportunities for inter-agency meetings and discussion forums, where there are opportunities to share service mandates and build trust with one another. There was a strong emphasis in acknowledging service limitations and collaboration vs. territoriality and siloed work to best support the same clientele.

Table 3 Priority initiatives for collaboration between service providers

Initiatives	Suggested Actions/ Strategies
Stop organizational territoriality & inter-agency competition over clients. Understand how to collaborate to support the same clients.	<p>Work from a victim-centered lens</p> <p>Recognize your agency's service limitations & accept them</p>
Stop working in silos. Collaborate to stay connected with the community & prevent service duplication.	<p>Encourage staff to connect with other agencies for services and form work relationships/ key contacts</p> <p>Learn the scope, practice, and limitations of other agencies</p> <p>Attend & participate in sector-related conferences & committees</p> <p>Focus on what your agency does best and refer out for additional support</p> <p>Continue to share information across agencies in an effort to best support your clients</p>
Clearer understanding in what services organizations provide	
Universal protocol to support HT victims	
Universal protocol to support clients with high needs	
Common language among service providers; terminology	
Increased collaboration & relationship between non-government and government agencies	
More inter-sectoral collaboration across the province	

HARM REDUCTION

Although the practice of using harm reduction techniques was not agreed upon by all participants, nearly all did agree that it was necessary to work from this standpoint to build relationships, safety plan, and to be there for when a person is ready, willing, and able to come forward for help.

Table 4 Priority initiatives for harm reduction

Initiatives	Suggested Actions/ Strategies
An ability to work with people regardless of their situation or life choices	Create safety plans, expect and accept risky behavior
Empower clients to make their own decisions	Employ trauma-informed practices
Have an open-door policy for on-going support; this allows the client to self-determine readiness	
Acknowledge the continuum of sexual experiences and exchanges	
An ability to have a youth direct the services they need despite provider's personal values and morals	
Return power to the people and communities that you work with	<p>Have people and communities define their own experiences</p> <p>Have people and communities define the terminology you use with them</p>

EFFECTIVE PROGRAM & PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS: GENERAL

Across all sectors, CCAP participants spoke of the need for more prevention programs aimed at youth, more wrap around and long-term services and education for those most vulnerable to being trafficked.

Trauma-informed and victim-centered approaches were both mentioned time and time again as needing to be adopted widely by the service community and law enforcement. Participants highlighted the need for community, law enforcement and service providers to understand that lifetime cumulative trauma occurs on a continuum rather than as isolated incidents and that a wide range of experiences, systems, and histories shapes both a person's response to violence and their recovery.

Victim-centered approaches stress that empowering the person, offering choices, and respecting their decisions is the most effective means of meeting their needs and goals. A client's autonomy is of utmost importance and this includes the language and labels they choose to use, use of cultural practices and the choice to engage in risky behavior.

Table 5 Priority initiatives for effective programming (general)

Initiatives	Suggested Actions/ Strategies
Create barriers to grooming in malls and at C-Trains stations (eg. Marlborough Mall)	Create partnerships with mall and C-train security companies

Table 5 Priority initiatives for effective programming (general)

Initiatives	Suggested Actions/ Strategies
Create programs aimed at tackling the demand side of the sex industry	
Use plain language and avoid jargon	
More available onsite walk-in services such as counselling, addiction supports, etc.	
Programs and services specific to the needs of transgendered individuals	
Secure and available temporary housing for victims escaping violence	
Create appropriate sex and healthy relationship education for people with cognitive and physical disabilities	
Accessible long-term wrap-around services	
More appropriate long-term housing options	
More outreach services for people living on the streets	
Appropriate & purposeful resources for people who have been trafficked	
Provide free sex education	
Increase community outreach and depth of reach	
Trauma-informed approaches	
Additional supports for single mothers in the child welfare system	
Create a women-only homeless shelter	
Adopt victim-centred responses	More in-person supports such as court support and peer to peer supports
Safety as priority	More partnerships with travel services to provide free/ discount fares across Canada
	Create safety plans with clients
	Ensure your building has strong safety measures and it is not open to the public
Education on relationship violence and healthy relationships	

EFFECTIVE PROGRAM & PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS: SEX WORKERS

Participants stressed the importance of working from an anti-oppressive framework in which the service providers is acutely aware of personal biases and how these values impact the work with a sex worker. Likewise, service providers acknowledge a sex worker as a whole person, with a complex identity and personalized needs. Here too moral judgment is abandoned and replaced with client self-determination.

Participants also spoke about the need for additional emergency and long-term supports and housing aimed at enabling people's independence.

Table 6 Priority initiatives for effective programming & best practices (sex workers)

Initiatives	Suggested Actions/ Strategies
Non-moral, non-rescue-based programming	
Programs that encourage self-determination	
Revisit the decriminalize laws	
Unlimited counselling sessions	
Additional life skills training	
More supports, programs and housing for male sex workers and those exiting	
24 hr services, especially emergency housing	
Additional education and career-focused training	
Peer support groups	
More support and funding for harm reduction programs	
Anti-oppressive practice	
Programs that extend through the continuum of care; long term focuses after exiting	

EFFECTIVE PROGRAM & PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS: INDIGENOUS

With a focus on prevention nearly all Indigenous participants spoke about educating their youth in two primary areas: the risks factors associated with human trafficking and the history and culture of their people. Reconnecting with Indigenous cultural and honoring Indigenous ways of healing were stated as being critical to the recovery process. In addition, adopting The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's recommendations is seen a step both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities can take to support the healing of communities.

Table 7 Priority initiatives for effective programming & best practices (Indigenous)

Initiatives	Suggested Actions/ Strategies
More supports for families in order to keep their children. Apprehension as a last resort	
Educate Indigenous youth on the signs of grooming and risk factors associated with being new to the city	
Encourage programs that introduce youth to Indigenous practices and ways of knowing	
Educate Indigenous youth on the missing and murdered women	
Decolonize organizations, government and non-government	Encourage traditional hereditary systems of governance
Honour the role of Elders and Knowledge Holders in community in transferring knowledge to the following generations	
Acknowledge and allow traditional way of healing and importance of practice and ceremony	
Adopt Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada recommendations	
Address internalized oppression and shame within the healing process	

EFFECTIVE PROGRAM & PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS: YOUTH

Nearly all recommendations from CCAP Participants concerning youth were through the lens of prevention. Education, safety and supporting the foundations that create healthy families are recognized as the pillars in reducing the risks associated with youth trafficking. With regards to supporting youth 18-24 years old, providing more basic services such as housing, are seen as creating safer pathways into adulthood and preventing the risks associated with exploitation.

Table 8 Priority initiatives for effective programming & best practices (youth)

Initiatives	Suggested Actions/ Strategies
Social media awareness and internet safety programs for youth and parents with a focus on grooming for the purpose of sexual exploitation	
Increasing the security measures in group homes to reduce further recruitment and exploitation of youth	
Safe and compassionate 24 hr housing options for children and youth in care	
Create a universal screening tool that highlights a youth's risk of being trafficked / exploited and use this tool at multiple service entry points	Create a model based off the World Health Organization's social ecological framework for violence prevention
Provide opportunities to empower youth	Create programs that allow youth to be positive mentors for other youth
Provide opportunities for youth to have strong male and female role models and mentors	
Build a youth's resiliency to trauma from a young age	Create more supports for vulnerable families and children such as free counselling and education on good parenting Assist youth in creating positive self-esteem for themselves
Reduce the amount of stress in at-risk homes	Create more affordable housing Surround the family with accessible supports: counselling, education, basic needs, community resources
Shelter for youth 18-24	
More services, programming & basic needs for youth 18-24	Create more spaces that offer centralized services
More supports for youth released from PSECA confinement and/or secure treatment to prevent re-victimization	
Re-evaluate PSECA programs in terms of harm reduction	
Education on drug awareness and use	

EFFECTIVE PROGRAM & PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS: NEWCOMERS

Participants commented frequently about the need for increased education and information to Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs) upon arrival, paired with support in service navigation. Improvements to the TFWP was seen as key as reducing the risk of exploitation to newcomers and TFWs, these recommendations range from a stricter LMIA employer requirements to providing more pathways to permanent resident status.

Table 9 Priority initiatives for effective programming & best practices (newcomers)

Initiatives	Suggested Actions/ Strategies
Educate TFW on their Rights and Responsibilities upon arrival in Calgary AND ensure their employers know that they are knowledgeable in this area	Have CBSA agents present TFWs information (in their own language) from Employment Standards at the airport
More parenting support for TFWs with children in Canada	
Upon arrival provide information on all services specific to immigrants	
Thorough vetting of employers who apply for LMIA's OR stricter requirement on part of the employer in order to obtain an LMIA	
Create other avenues for people to obtain permanent resident status	
Changes to the TFW Programs need to be communicated in a timely and clear manner	
Free English classes to all those TFWs in the low skill category	
Provide follow-up to TFWs after the LMIA approval	
More services providing supports for basic needs	
Provide opportunities for newcomers to gain social capital and build community	
Provide support with system navigation especially with government programs and services	

Roots Causes and Discourse

Two additional, equally important, documents were also created based on the information collected within the CCAP project. Specific to the context of human trafficking in Calgary several participants highlighted the same roots causes as being push and pull factors leading individuals becoming exploited. Although most of these root causes are well known and globally accepted as pathways to exploitation, some roots cause are more specific to the Alberta and or Canadian Indigenous or newcomer experience.

Likewise, participants emphasized the importance of capturing how we are communicating the nuances of human trafficking in Calgary. Many were concerned with the risk of over sensationalizing the issue and or misrepresenting victims' realities with inaccurate anecdotes, rather than using facts and evidence. A section was also added as a best practice guide around the use of terminology. As previously mentioned in this report, the term human trafficking and discourse on its uses, or rejection of its use, is contested. This section aims to support service providers regardless of the language they use and is to act as a tool to support collaboration. ■

Root Causes of Human Trafficking

Racism	Indigenous	Racism towards Indigenous people in Calgary The sexualization of Indigenous women and girls
	Newcomers	The inherent power imbalance and racism in the Temporary Foreign Worker Program
Colonialism	Indigenous	The role that colonialism has played in exploiting and trafficking Indigenous people Northern Affairs Canada as a tool for colonialism
	Indigenous	Undermining Indigenous femininity and traditional matriarchal communities
Sexism	Women	The circumstances where sex is used as a currency for such items as transportation, safety, drugs, housing and basic needs
		The normalization of violence towards women
		The shaming of women who work in sex-related industries
Poverty	All	Lack of basic needs such as food, shelter, affection, clothing and economic stability
Patriarchy	All	The prevailing definition of masculinity
	Women	The demand side of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation
Capitalism	All	People's demand for more resources at lower costs Capitalism recognizes that anything has a monetary value, even humans
	Newcomers	Alberta's demand for cheap labour and services has led to putting temporary foreign workers at great risk of labour and sexual exploitation
Human Nature	All	All humans are wired for love, leaving many vulnerable to exploitation
System Failure	All	Many of our government and support service systems are oppressive

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Discourse on Human Trafficking

Communicating the scope & realities of the situation in Calgary	Demand	Acknowledge that both males and females have been charged with trafficking offences
	Exploited & Trafficked Women	Data must be evidence-based
		Acknowledge that co-ed shelters and group homes place children and youth at risk of sexual exploitation
	Poverty Sector	Acknowledge that a lack of basic needs puts both men and women at risk for sex and labour trafficking
		Acknowledge the complexities within victimology; race, gender, victim as trafficker, socio-economics, sexual orientation, age, legal status
	Indigenous	Acknowledge the sexualization and objectification of Indigenous women and girls
		Acknowledge the long-term impacts of residential schools on individuals and communities
		Acknowledge the role that colonialism has played in exploiting and trafficking Indigenous people
	Newcomers	Acknowledge that the Temporary Foreign Worker Program is flawed and is a gateway for exploitation
	Youth	Acknowledge the relationship between early child trauma, social determinants of health and sex trafficking
	Women	Acknowledge the relationship between intimate partner violence, exploitation, and sex trafficking
	Disability	Acknowledge that people with disabilities are at a higher risk for exploitation
	Sex Workers	Acknowledge that there are male sex workers
Acknowledge that most consensual sex work is being negotiated on the internet not on the streets		
Acknowledge that decriminalizing sex work has created barriers around safety for both the sex worker and the purchaser		
Acknowledge that sex workers have experiences within a spectrum of sexual experiences; consensual and otherwise		
The Terminology of Human Trafficking	All	Identify clients with their own words and labels, mirror their language
		Be clear on which terminology you OR other organizations use internally (eg. human trafficking, sex work, exploitation), how that impacts access to services and why such terminology is used
		Sector wide understanding of consent and constrained choice

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A Call for Action

This document serves as a call to collaborative action. The planning and implementation of these community recommendations is not ACT Alberta's responsibility alone. The solutions and strategies endorsed in this project are complex and require the expertise only achieved through cooperation.

Upon sharing our community initiatives with our project participants many identified the need to form targeted working groups to further distill these initiatives down as they relate to specific populations, such as harm reduction. Likewise, the need for an increase in knowledge around local resources, trauma-informed practices and Indigenous history and resources was felt as top

priority. The role of the ACT Alberta is to build on the existing momentum and enable the community to take action on the chosen initiatives they identified within this project. This includes both continuing to connect with those engaged in this project and those identified as needing to be included in the conversation. Our priority in the next phase of the CCAP project is to transform this document into tangible outcomes that improve our existing support systems for our most vulnerable victims of crime; trafficked individuals. ■





Protecting victims and preventing
human trafficking through partnerships.
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