

*“I was strong
and they could not break me...”*

*If I can save one little girl
from lying in a den of wolves,
that will be my legacy.”*

FROM HEARTBREAKING TO GROUNDBREAKING

Stories and Strategies
to end Sex Trafficking in Canada

Fall 2014



*“They took away my power
to have sexual pleasure.”*

*“People watched as six large men
dragged me down the street, and
then turned their heads away.
The cops laughed at me.”*

*“The traffickers lit my parents’ house on fire
and my mom almost died.”*

*“When you exit
you stand alone.”*

*“They stole everything from me.
The only thing they can’t take is my rage.
Fighting for change through my rage...
it’s kept me alive.”*

*“They beat me so badly.
They used sticks inside of me, and
put a hot curling iron, hot peppers
and broken glass in my vagina.”*

HEARTBREAKING.

*“It’s difficult to settle down.
I have moved 51 times in 10 years.”*

*“I self-sabotage.
I’m more comfortable in pain,
because I know it so well. I’d like to
have more happy days. . . . I wish so
strongly I could shut the voices off.”*

*“I was 75 pounds and suffering
a total body breakdown and
a severe drug addiction.
There was a contract
on my life from the gang.”*

*“They always talked
about killing me
– killing me, my sister or my dog.”*

*“I needed to be taught
what is actually normal.”*

*“I thought my customers
were my friends until one of them
asked if he could have sex
with my daughter.
She was two years old.”*

Sex trafficking is a serious threat to women’s equality and the basic right of every woman and girl to live free of violence.

It uses threats, force, deception and the abuse of power to recruit women and girls into sexual exploitation.

98%

OF SEX TRAFFICKING
 VICTIMS WORLDWIDE
 ARE WOMEN AND GIRLS¹

93%

OF CANADA’S
 TRAFFICKING VICTIMS
 COME FROM CANADA²

THIS IS SEX TRAFFICKING

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Most common recruitment age | 13-14³ |
| World-wide profits from sex trafficking | \$99 BILLION (US)⁴ |
| Average annual profit from each female trafficked in Canada | \$280,800⁵ |
| Estimated value of lost earnings and personal costs per trafficked girl | \$205,739⁶ |
| Trafficked girls and women served in 2012 by 266 surveyed Canadian organizations | 2,872⁷ |
| Trafficking convictions since 2007 | 71⁸ |
| Biggest risk factor | BEING A GIRL |

1. “21 Million people are now victims of forced labour, ILO says,” International Labour Organization, accessed June 25, 2014, http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_181961/lang—en/index.htm.
 2. RCMP, Human Trafficking National Co-ordination Centre, Statistics: Human Trafficking in Canada, March 2014.
 3. Canadian Women’s Foundation, On-Line Agency Survey on Service Provision for Trafficked or Sexually Exploited Women and Girls, 2013.
 4. International Labour Organization, Profits and Poverty: The economics of forced labour, 2014, 27.
 5. CISC, “Organized Crime and Domestic Trafficking in Persons,” Strategic Intelligence Brief, August 2008, 5. http://www.cisc.gc.ca/products_services/domestic_trafficking_persons/document/sib_web_en.pdf.
 6. L. DeRiviere, “A Human Capital Methodology for Estimating the Lifelong Personal Costs of Young Women Leaving the Sex Trade,” Feminist Economics 12 (2006), 367 – 402.
 7. Task Force On-Line Agency Survey on Service Provision for Trafficked or Sexually Exploited Women and Girls, 2013.
 8. RCMP, Human Trafficking National Co-ordination Centre, Fast Facts, May 2014, 2.

ANY GIRL.
ANYWHERE.
AT ANY TIME.

*“Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once,
but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach.
...it does not take everyone on Earth to bring justice and peace,
only a small determined group who will not give up...”*

- Clarissa Estes

When we accepted the honour of co-chairing this Task force, we knew there was an issue, but we had no idea of the scale, the scope and the human tragedy being played out in our own communities. Girls, often as young as 13, are being lured, recruited and procured into sexual slavery by predators who profit from their endeavors, rob them of their dignity, and often wound them with lifelong scars, changing forever the trajectories of otherwise happy lives.

Poverty, violence and widespread gender inequity are the preconditions for trafficking, but not the only factors. Any one of the previously trafficked girls and women we have come to know could be our own daughter, our sister, our niece, our aunt. The diversity of those who are trafficked is sobering: Any girl, anywhere, at any time.

CREATING EQUITY OUT OF THE RUBBLE OF INJUSTICE

Listening to their stories we realized this is not just about their individual tragedy, but about our collective view of humankind. We came to realize that one person's poverty of property is actually our poverty of generosity. Another's poverty of well-being is really our poverty of spirit. It cannot be right, or fair, or tolerable that thousands of Canadian women and girls go missing, are unaccounted for and are so much more likely to live in poverty and be subject to the luring of predators. It's not a matter of left versus right, it's a matter of right versus wrong.

We are deeply grateful to the Canadian Women's Foundation for commissioning this important work. Creating equity out of the rubble of injustice is a massive job, an overpowering sometimes thankless job, but when you give this organization a "why" it always finds the "how". By funding the Task Force on Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada they have put capacity behind vision and stepped into leadership. They have provided the "how".

As a result of this work we have all come to understand that the issue is complex and multi-dimensional. There are roles for lawmakers, service providers, survivors, philanthropists, community organizations, and the faith community, as well as the dreamers and the seekers after justice and equity who will keep the passion for eliminating sex trafficking alive and loud among us. We all share in solving this issue, and there is a role for every one of us.

We are humbled by the opportunity to have worked with 22 wise and courageous colleagues who brought insight, passion and intelligent analysis to this work. They are the embodiment of amazing grace, and we are forever grateful to them. These recommendations are theirs, and come from their lived experience and their service to trafficked women in our country.

EMOTION IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR ACTION

We now know what needs to be done - we all have a part to play. It is most important when reading this report, that we remember passion doesn't automatically translate into commitment. Emotion is no substitute for action. We will need courage and vision to fight this problem. Together they are the double helix of success.

Let us all be fearless, let us all dig deep for inspiration. Join with us, invest with the Foundation to stop sex trafficking and say NO MORE.

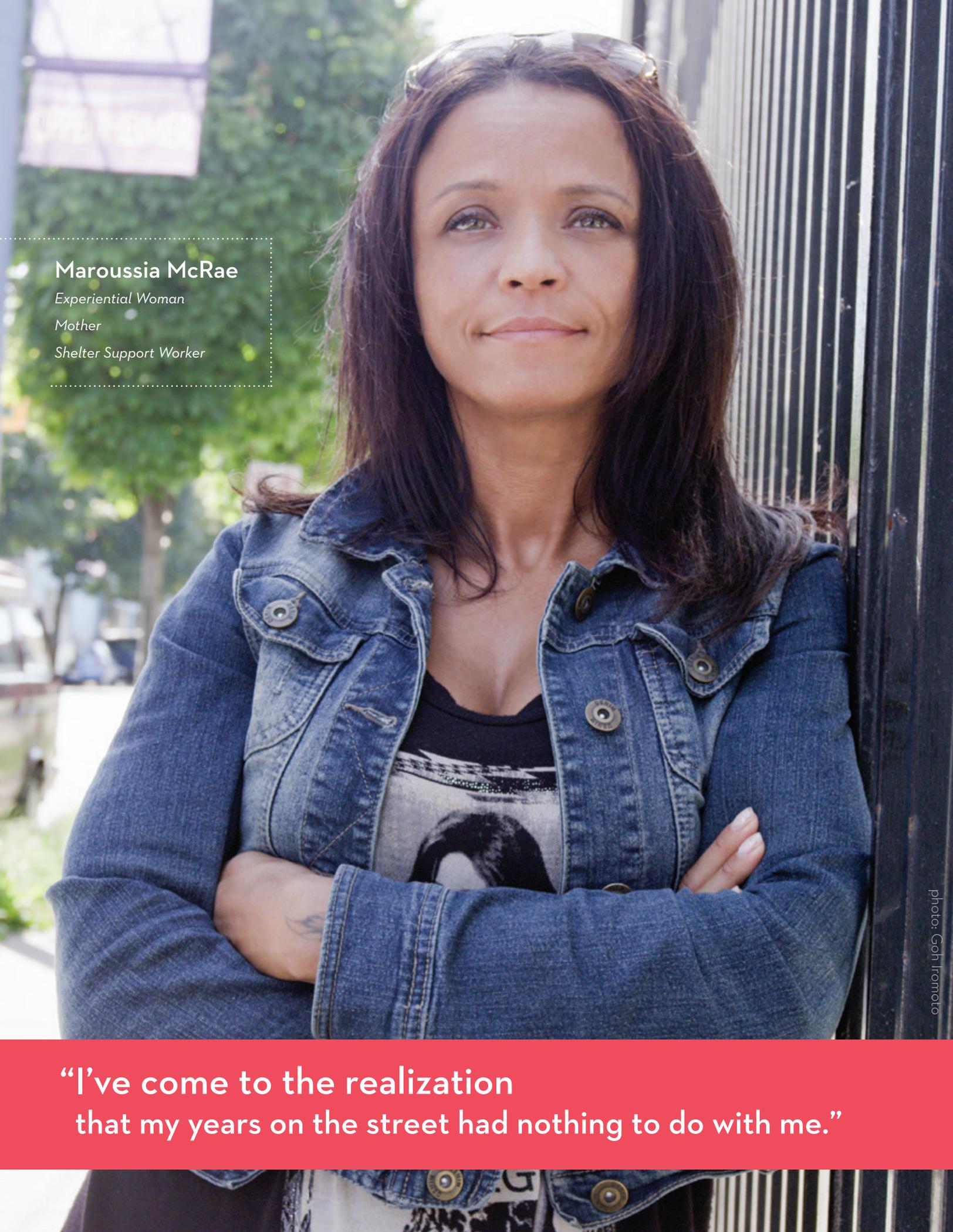


Margot Fransen
Task Force Co-Chair



Sheila O'Brien
Task Force Co-Chair



A portrait of Maroussia McRae, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a denim jacket over a black t-shirt with a graphic. She is standing outdoors with a metal fence behind her and trees in the background. Her arms are crossed, and she has a slight smile.

Maroussia McRae

Experiential Woman

Mother

Shelter Support Worker

photo: Goh Iromoto

**“I’ve come to the realization
that my years on the street had nothing to do with me.”**

IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE AND IT CAN HAPPEN SO QUICKLY

For me, it started just by hanging out at the mall with my friends. I was 14 and a half. I came from a middle-class home and had good parents who loved me.

But then along came these older guys at the mall. They were so smooth. They told me I was beautiful. They would find out the tiny little things in my life I wasn't happy about, and magnify them. They made me feel that my parents were ridiculously out of bounds.

I was invited to a party, and went there against my parents' wishes. It turns out I was the party favour. I was raped, beaten, and dropped off in the morning. I was black and blue. I was ashamed.

They made me think I was the one that wanted it all. I felt I couldn't go back to my parents.

I was young and pretty, and they knew they could get a good price for me

I went back to the mall. I was taken to another man's house – some guy who managed a shoe store. I was raped there. I was taken to another house. And then I was sold. It all happened so quickly. They didn't waste any time.

I was taken to an apartment and other girls were there. We had to take off our clothes and were stood in a line. A guy – he must have been in his late 40s – had sex with each of us, picked the ones he wanted to buy, and paid the people who had brought us.

We were moved to another apartment that night – all the girls sleeping in a room – and then we were put in two cars and taken to Calgary.

People ask, "Why didn't you run away?" But they don't give you time to think. You're 14. You don't know what you're supposed to do. And you're scared. And then you're suddenly in a different city and you don't know where you could run to.

If I wasn't strong, I would have died

I've come to the realization that my years on the street had nothing to do with me. My choices were taken away. I was taken away from my family. I was introduced to drugs so it would be easier to work and not have to feel anything.

I was tough out there. If I was raped I thought it was part of life. I stayed as strong as I could and that helped me to escape.

I still have that strength. I now work at a women's shelter in the Downtown Eastside. We see women are still dying, but I still stay strong. I was already resilient and strong but now I'm ten times stronger.

*They made me think
I was the one that
wanted it all.
I felt I couldn't go
back to my parents.*

– Maroussia McRae

Timea Nagy

Founder, Walk with Me

International speaker

Human trafficking survivor

*Member, Canadian Women's
Foundation Task Force on
Trafficking of Women and Girls
in Canada*

photo: Christina Gapic

**“I don’t want to drag girls to safety.
I want to plant the seeds so they know what unconditional love is.”**

SO DESPERATE FOR A BETTER WAY OF LIFE

I was 19 when I answered an ad to work as a domestic helper in Canada. I left my home in Budapest, and was met at the Toronto airport by two Hungarians. They kidnapped me, threatened me and my family, deprived me of food and sleep, and forced me into the sex trade to pay off the debt they said I owed them.

It's an experience that has never left me. It's why I founded Walk With Me to help other trafficked women restore their dignity, freedom and wellbeing. And it's why I've told my story many, many times – so that Canadians will know what is happening in their own country.

But my story is not THE story any more

There are still girls being trafficked into Canada, but the numbers are smaller. It takes a lot of legwork to bring a girl into the country. It's so much easier to pick up a girl from a group home.

Now the story is how young the girls are, and how easy it is to traffic them. The girls I see are so desperate for a better way of life.

We see children growing up in a very dysfunctional child welfare system with no love or care. They get more attention from a trafficker in the first three weeks than they've had in their entire lives.

Our job is to walk with them, not take them for a walk

When I started Walk With Me, I thought my job was to rescue girls and give them a safe home. But for many, a normal home is not *their* normal. People are shocked when they hear of girls who go back to their traffickers. It's the Stockholm Syndrome, sure. But it's also because it's better than what they had.

Our dream is to create a reception centre with long-term supports – a year or two of care to give girls time to be kids for a little bit, and then learn the life skills – all the things they don't learn in group homes.

But I don't want to drag girls to safety. I want to plant the seeds so they will know what unconditional love is.

Some agencies have policies: miss three appointments and they close the files. That doesn't work. I tell girls I will wait for you. I will answer your texts. I will be here no matter what you did or what you didn't do.

And eventually, they will know: they are better off without their trafficker.

We see children growing up in a very dysfunctional child welfare system with no love or care.

- Timea Nagy



Jennifer Richardson

Social worker since 2000

MSW Candidate

Mother and foster mother

photo: kampfphotography.com

“Kids your own age are talking about making out in their parents’ car, and you’ve had experiences they’ve never thought of.”

GOING HOME DOESN'T MEAN THINGS ARE BACK TO NORMAL

I was just a 13-year-old who met the wrong person at the wrong time.

He and his cousin presented themselves as businessmen, and invited me along on what was supposed to be a business trip. They gave me nice clothes and a fake ID.

And that's all it took. Once I was in the car they threw my real ID on the highway. The RCMP found it and thought I might be dead. Then they told me they were out of money and I needed to dance in a strip club. I saw guns. I saw another girl beaten and forced to eat dog food naked in front of men. I was moved from coast to coast.

And then when I was 15, on the stroll and in strip clubs in Montreal, they beat me with a crowbar. One of the cousins thought they were going to kill me. He said, "Let her go to work." I got out, flagged down a patrol car, and the police got me back home.

When you come home, you have no one to talk to

While you're away you've been treated like a little adult. Then you come home. Kids your own age are talking about making out in their parents' car, and you've had experiences they've never thought of.

There's shame too. It's different from other kinds of abuse. If you've been trafficked, it's seen as your fault. People who have been abused by their family may have one or two abusers. But if you've been trafficked, you can have ten adults a day abuse you. Years later you can go to college and find one of your professors was your trick.

People see you differently. Someone who abuses their niece wouldn't tell their friends. But a man who abused you and purchased sex from you as a child would say, "That girl used to be a hooker." It becomes your whole identity. When I started dating my husband, I stressed about it for months before I told him. I didn't know how he would take it, even though it happened 20 years ago when I was a child.

There's shame too. It's different from other kinds of abuse. If you've been trafficked, it's seen as your fault.

It's even worse for kids now

The sex trade has changed so much. Kids are having sex for as little as \$5, turned out by traffickers who are getting them hooked on drugs right away to keep them even more vulnerable.

Before, kids were sold on the streets and police and child welfare could see them. Now the sex trade is happening on the internet, and it's very hard to assist these children when they are hidden in someone's house and being pimped out online.

It's very tough out there.

– Jennifer Richardson



photo: Janet Baxter

Diane Sowden

*Founder and Executive Director,
Children of the Street Society*

*Mother to eight children
(adopted and biological)*

School Trustee, District 43, Coquitlam

*Activist with a life-long commitment
to children and youth*

“We need to break down the misconceptions about who these children are, and where they come from.”

PEOPLE SAY, 'YOU LOOK LIKE ALL OF US MOMS'

I didn't intend to go public.

I was making a presentation to Coquitlam's school trustees. I didn't know the media were there. Suddenly I became a front-page story.

My daughter was on the streets of Vancouver at age 13, sexually exploited and using crack. She was pregnant at 14. By 15, she was recruiting girls in middle school. I was concerned about my daughter, but I also felt a high responsibility. I started taking her picture to school principals to warn them, and I began to think about how to bring education about trafficking into the schools.

Talking publicly about something this personal was not easy

I was concerned about my daughter's safety. I was concerned for my other children. My husband felt very self-conscious. Some research connects sexual exploitation with childhood sexual abuse. He was afraid others would think he had abused our daughter.

It was as if people had to blame someone so they could feel it would never happen to them. I learned I can only do my best. I have to be able to look in the mirror and not worry about what everyone else says.

We always kept very connected with our daughter. Now she's in a safe house, and is doing well. It shows the importance of hanging in. But I understand why some parents give up. They disconnect because it's the only way they can keep their own home functioning. It tells me we need more services to allow parents to keep connected to their child.

I tell parents, it's not who your child is, it's who they are connected with

Our children can invite predators in through the computer screen in their bedrooms, or the Smartphone in their hands. We wouldn't let a child drive a car without training and supervision, but we leave kids to figure out these powerful machines for themselves.

Yet when I do workshops for parents in schools, I still hear, "Oh, my daughter wouldn't do that." They forget that the people who groom and lure kids are very good at it. It's their job.

Or I hear "I only have sons." Some boys will be exploited, and some will become exploiters.

We need to break down the misconceptions about who these children are, and where they come from. People say, "You look so normal. You look like all of us moms."

Why are they surprised?

It was as if people had to find someone to blame, just so they could feel it could never happen to them.

- Diane Sowden

“You might be only an hour’s drive away, but when you’re 14 you might as well be in a different country – especially when the only people you ever see are the people within the trafficker’s own circle.”

Jim Zucchero

*Constable, Peel Regional Police
Vice Unit*

Husband and Father

*Member, Canadian Women's
Foundation Task Force on Trafficking
of Women and Girls in Canada*

IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT MONEY

For traffickers, a woman is a commodity. That's all she is.

For women, it's the search for a way to get ahead, or get out of the situation they're in. Women living in poverty, girls who are running away, or living in a group home, those with a history of abuse or an addiction: this is what makes women and girls vulnerable.

And that's what traffickers prey on.

Traffickers are master manipulators who give women and girls false hope. It might be the hope of a nice car or a nice condo. For young girls, it might be the glamour of parties, or access to alcohol or drugs. Most often, it's the dream of a loving relationship.

And then the control begins

It can be as simple as swapping her cell phone. In one simple move, the trafficker has isolated her and acquired her complete list of phone contacts. If she tries to leave, he can threaten to track down not just her, but her family and friends. Or he can threaten to reveal to everyone on her contact list or social media that she is working as a prostitute. If you're in high school, that's a frightening prospect.

There are all kinds of other ways to isolate and intimidate. Traffickers take their money, their bank card, their keys, their ID. Just moving a girl from A to B can be isolating. You might be only an hour's drive away, but when you're 14 you might as well be in a different country – especially when the only people you ever see are the people within the trafficker's own circle.

Violence, or the threat of violence, is part of the mix

Traffickers may tell their victims stories about the violence other women endured when they didn't do what they were told. They may follow this with threats or assaults – proof of what he is willing to do.

In Peel, we identify victims through our own pro-active outreach to women in the sex industry. Our officers are trained to spot signs of trafficking. We have a poster campaign to help victims recognize their situation, or assist friends, family, and the public to recognize the signs of trafficking. And we work closely with the Crown Attorney, our Victim Witness Assistant Program and a local agency, Walk With Me, to help support women through the entire court process.

But it can still be hard for women to get out. They're always looking over their shoulder. Victims may have nightmares or fears their exploiter will find them. They may be afraid to leave or tell anyone what they're going through for fear of retribution. As a result of the trafficker's control, many don't have their high school diploma or any work experience outside of the sex industry.

We experience many women who move from one exploitive situation to another. The new guy may not assault her or take as high a percentage of her income. The arrangement may be better than the last. But it's still exploitation.

Traffickers take their money, their bank card, their keys, their ID. Just moving a girl from A to B can be isolating.

- Jim Zucchero

From left:

Tara Wilkie

Registered Nurse BSN,
Forensic Nurse Examiner,
Fraser Health

Martha Cloutier

Director of Emergency Programs,
Fraser Health

Sonya Boyce

Executive Director,
Surrey Women's Centre



photo: Janet Baxter

**“These were women in acute trauma,
but they were expected to go out and find their own help.”**

IT'S WHERE SAFETY MEETS JUSTICE

SMART (the Surrey Mobile Assault Response Team) is a first-of-its-kind partnership between Fraser Health Authority and Surrey Women's Centre. The program offers women and girls injured through gender-based violence, including trafficking, 24/7 medical treatment, emotional support, an understanding of their options, the evidence they need if they wish to prosecute, and a path to stability and long-term support. A transportation program ensures women and girls from British Columbia's fastest growing region – a suburb extending 250 km from end to end – can get to the help they need.

Forensic nurse **Tara Wilkie** and Surrey Women's Centre's Executive Director **Sonya Boyce** talk about the partnership.

There's a natural synergy

Tara: We began noticing signs of trafficking in our emergency room. As a forensic nurse, I of course want to advocate for our patients. But it's also my job to collect and present evidence in court, so I have to be 100% objective.

We realized Surrey Women's Centre could be that advocate. We could discharge women knowing they'd be taken care of, and have the support to go through the court process.

Sonya: Before SMART, we might get a referral from a hospital two days after an incident. Now we can be there in 45 minutes, sometimes sooner. Providing free and safe transportation is critical. Women can't use services unless they can get to them. You can start building the relationship right on the ride.

We're getting at the systemic issues

Tara: Before SMART we were seeing multiple assaults on the same women. These were women in acute trauma, but they were expected to go out and find their own help.

Sonya: If we save just one repeat emergency room visit for every woman we serve, we've recouped the cost of the program. SMART also allows us to identify serial perpetrators. It puts us in a position to work with police and key services to take action.

Tara: We've developed a toolkit and training to allow all health staff to identify trafficking. Now we screen everyone for violence. When you ask the right questions, people divulge.

Senior management believed in the process

Tara: There are a lot of logistical issues in bringing an external agency into the hospital. But senior management like Martha Cloutier, (Director of Clinical Programs, Fraser Health Authority – pictured centre) embraced and believed in the process. That's what made it possible.

Sonya: We got the best advice, "Start small, and then build partnerships." Now we're connected to 12 hospitals and over 20 partners. We're serving about 300 women and girls per year.

There's no ongoing funding for this work

Tara: Hospitals have core funding but Surrey Women's Centre has to be constantly fundraising. That's a big difference between us.

Sonya: It takes long-term funding for an agency to partner with an institution like Fraser Health. Right now, we're keeping it together as a labour of love.



Laurie Mackenzie

Experiential Woman

*Graduated with Honours,
Red River College*

*Helper, Resources for Sexually
Exploited Youth*

*Member, Canadian Women's
Foundation Task Force on Trafficking
of Women and Girls in Canada*

photo: Christina Gapic

**“My credibilty increased with that piece of paper.
It’s on my resumé. It made me know I wasn’t stupid.”**

IT SHOWS THE NEXT GENERATION ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

I first heard about Ndinawe through a newspaper ad. It was an opportunity to get a college certified education as a child and youth worker – a 10-month fully-funded program to attend school and get daycare while you're in school.

I was already working full-time for a wonderful company. But because I had only Grade eight education, I couldn't advance. I took a leave of absence and enrolled.

Ndinawe is a partnership with Red River College. Everyone in class had street experience. That was important. I could fit in here.

Everything you need is there. It's a family situation. The Aboriginal teachings are very strong and help you heal. At any time you can come back to get help with a resume or references. Those who are furthering their education can get help with applications and funding. That kind of support is rare.

150 children now have a parent with higher education

We formed a survivor-led Alumnae Group to help recent graduates get jobs and keep jobs. There are weekly meetings. We have a meal. We validate our growth, and help each other keep our sobriety and the humour flowing.

There are 58 proud alumnae graduates: 48 are employed, nine went on to take second year, three went on to other post-secondary education, and one has a BA degree.

What's really important is that the 150 children of alumnae now have a parent with a higher education. Those children have new role models.

My credibility increased with that piece of paper

Before the program, I was making \$9.67/hour and supporting kids. When I graduated with honours, I got a job that paid \$21/hour and got out of poverty.

My credibility increased with that piece of paper. It's on my resumé. It made me know I wasn't stupid. When I was a kid I didn't fit in at school. I'm dyslexic. People said I was a product of drugs and alcohol – nowadays I would be labeled FAE. Nobody expected much of me and I believed it too. With Ndinawe, I got a 4.33 GPA out of a possible 4.50.

My daughter and I went to school at the same time. For anyone, I would recommend going to college with their child. It's a life lesson and a wonderful experience.

It shows the next generation anything is possible.

We validate our growth and help each other keep our sobriety and the humour flowing.

-Laurie Mackenzie



Kate Quinn

Executive Director, Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE)

Recipient, YWCA Lois Hole Award for Lifetime Achievement, 2012

Member, Canadian Women's Foundation Task Force on Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada

photo: Christina Gapic

**“I asked myself: what do we have in common?
How are our lives different? What can we do together?”**

“WE JUST KEPT EXPANDING OUR CIRCLE”

It was when we saw girls and women on our street corners that our community woke up and asked, “What do we need to know? What do we need to do?”

Men would pick up girls and women a few blocks away, and then park outside our house. At least five women ran to our door for help. One ran out of the car on a cold January night, and two men came after her. We just pulled her inside and slammed the door. We offered her a ride home, and learned she was a neighbour living just six blocks away.

That experience started me on a personal journey as well as a community journey.

I asked myself: what do we have in common? How are our lives different? What can we do together? My husband and I brought what we learned to a neighbourhood action group. We were fortunate to have local leaders who had a broad social justice understanding.

We invited law students to talk to us, and learned the issues were bigger than the law. We asked outreach workers to educate us on why a 12-year-old girl might be on our streets.

What causes the greatest harm to the most people?

We recognized it was men cruising the streets that were doing the most harm – exploiting children and women, harassing females of all ages, and making seniors afraid to leave their homes.

We asked our City for a traffic count, and found there were 3700 cars around a school compared to the typical 700 per day. Police documented who was on our streets, including 250 children under 18. We began to ask, “How could we promote safety for all children, not just our own?”

We started to get calls from parents from the suburbs saying, “Our daughters are on your streets. Can we join your group?” We were getting calls from wives asking, “Is my husband part of the problem?” We’ve even had calls from men who say, “I need help to know why I’m doing this.”

Our focus on the cruisers gave confidence to women who had been exploited to join the group. Some began to ask, “Shouldn’t we try to move this activity inside to massage parlours?” They told us, “You don’t want to control this. You want to change it.”

Making things visible

Today, much of the exploitation is online and almost invisible. Men who were formerly anonymous now have an online community.

The risk is that if we can’t see exploitation and sex trafficking, we might not be moved to action. We need to make things visible.

Our focus on the cruisers gave confidence to women who had been exploited to join the group.

– Kate Quinn

A portrait of Elder Mae Louise Campbell, an elderly woman with short, wavy white hair, wearing glasses and a wide smile. She is dressed in a white long-sleeved top under a brown shawl. Her accessories include large, colorful beaded earrings, a matching beaded necklace with a central yellow and green pendant, a silver bracelet on her right wrist, and a brown leather watch on her left. The background is a soft-focus green field.

**Elder Mae Louise
Campbell**

Elder-in-Residence, Red River College

Founder, Grandmother Moon Lodge

*Member, Canadian Women's
Foundation Task Force on Trafficking
of Women and Girls in Canada*

photo: Christina Gapic

**“I am always in awe of the strength of our women,
and their ability to go through hell and back again and say, ‘I will be strong again’...”**

IT'S ABOUT COMPASSION. THAT'S WHAT'S MISSING.

To end the trafficking of our children we need to *feel*. It has to be more than words. It has to be something you feel in your heart, in your soul and in your spirit.

It's about compassion. That's what's missing.

To have compassion is to see that young girls are being broken – that children are being used for sex toys. As an Elder, I believe we will continue to have missing and murdered women, and we will continue to have trafficking, because humanity is still sleeping.

We all have a journey from the day we are born until the day we pass, and that journey is to become as compassionate, as caring and as sharing as we possibly can. And that's not happening. In the 80 years I've been on this earth, I see we are not getting better. We are getting worse. Our hearts are closed.

I see the pain

In my work as an Elder, I see the pain. I've worked with children who are completely wounded. They don't know what love is. They have no sense of self.

I've worked with women and heard their stories. I am always in awe of the strength of our women, and their ability to go through hell and back again and say, "I will be strong again. I will be a mother. I will get my children back from Child and Family Services. I will get educated and become a strength for my community and for my children".

I know women will continue to get well, and take their rightful place in the community. Until we do that, things will not change. Women must take their rightful role back.

I want to challenge the men to look within themselves

We know that it's mostly men that are doing the buying. In families, there are men who are sexually abusing their own grandchildren, and the rest of the family is silent. We need to make a loud noise about it. We can't go pussyfooting around because we don't want to upset the men by speaking the truth.

There's a lot of confusion in the minds of men. What they see in the media doesn't help matters. On TV reality shows we see tiny tots with make-up in scanty bikinis. It changes how we see our children.

The men themselves need to begin to challenge each other. Groups of men could begin to gather and say, "Why are we doing this? What is it in our spirits or bodies that makes us think we have the right to sexually abuse children and think it's OK?"

It's a healing journey that men need to go on, to recognize that it's about their daughters, and their grandchildren. It's a hard one. But they have to figure it out.

I've worked with children who are completely wounded. They didn't know what love is. They have no sense of self.

- Elder Mae Louise Campbell

IF WE WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN END SEX TRAFFICKING IN CANADA

The National Task Force on Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada was comprised of twenty-four experts from across Canada including women who have survived sex trafficking, an Indigenous Elder, front-line community groups, representatives from law enforcement and justice, policy and research experts, and the private sector. Members included the Co-Chair from the Government of Canada's Federal National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the Native Women's Association of Canada, Canadian Council for Refugees, Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies and the RCMP Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre. The Task Force traveled to eight cities across Canada to consult with all levels of government, more than 260 organizations, and 160 survivors of sex trafficking. The Task Force formally concluded its work in May 2014.

To learn more about the Task Force and to download the Task Force report, please visit canadianwomen.org/trafficking

The Canadian Women's Foundation is proud to have commissioned the National Task Force on Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada.

We launched this initiative because we were receiving an increasing number of grant applications from community organizations who were working with survivors of sex trafficking. There are many links between sex trafficking—an extreme form of violence against women—and our mission to end violence against women, to help women move out of poverty, and to empower girls.

In addition to launching the Task Force (see sidebar), we also commissioned research and invested \$800,000 in grants to grassroots organizations that are working to end sex trafficking and to help women and girls—many under the age of eighteen—to rebuild their lives.

Based on the work of the Task Force, we have now developed a five-year strategy to help end sex trafficking in Canada.

The Canadian Women's Foundation's work on sex trafficking in Canada was made possible by a generous donation from the Estate of Ann Southam, a celebrated music composer and member of the Order of Canada, to support its work with women and girls in Canada.

OUR TRAFFICKING STRATEGY

The Canadian Women's Foundation has a five-year strategy to help end sex trafficking in Canada. This strategy builds on our expertise in grant making, convening, evaluation, and advocacy for systemic change.

The strategy has three main components:

1. Grants

We heard: Service organizations need long-term, sustainable funding to focus energies on helping women and girls. We also learned the entire service sector needs increased capacity to recognize and respond to sex trafficking.

Over the next five years, the Canadian Women's Foundation will:

Provide stable five-year funding for up to 20 organizations working to prevent sex trafficking and helping women and girls to end the sexual exploitation and rebuild their lives.

All programs will be evaluated to inform future service delivery and policy-making. Organizations that receive grants will be invited to come together to network, share knowledge and strengthen the capacity of the service sector.

Incorporate sex trafficking into our existing programs through:

- Additional funding for our annual violence prevention grants
- New developmental grants to enable existing grant recipients to improve their services for trafficking women and girls
- New grants to mobilize knowledge about sex trafficking within existing innovation projects funded by the Canadian Women's Foundation
- Knowledge sharing on sex trafficking at grantee meetings and through training webinars

2. Promoting collective action

We heard: Ending sex trafficking requires both Canada-wide action and regional co-ordination among a wide array of stakeholders.

Within the next year, the Canadian Women's Foundation will:

Convene four Regional Roundtables to transfer knowledge and support community-based strategies to end sex trafficking. These roundtables will build upon existing regional networks and include representation from experiential women, community-based organizations, law enforcement and justice, child welfare, Aboriginal and Migrant communities, funding partners, government and the private sector.

Convene a one-day National Summit for specialists in four areas:

- Research and Data: to pave the way for consistent and sustained Canada-wide data collection and an agreed-upon national research agenda
- Technology: to advance the role of the internet and mobile communications in combating sex trafficking
- Legal Issues: to overcome legal barriers that impede prosecutions and prevent women and girls from coming forward
- National Co-ordination: to establish a body to keep the work moving forward for the greatest collective impact

3. Sharing knowledge and expertise towards system change

We heard: Ending sex trafficking requires system change, with every sector playing its part.

Over the next five years, the Canadian Women's Foundation will:

Present policy recommendations to relevant levels of government that encourage effective system change and create supportive environments for trafficked women and girls

Monitor emerging issues that affect sex trafficking in Canada and respond with strategies that address them

Share our knowledge on sex trafficking at key conferences, annual meetings, schools, universities and community organizations

Establish a small research budget to work with other organizations and fill gaps in knowledge

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. LEARN ABOUT IT

Get informed about sex trafficking of women and girls in Canada: canadianwomen.org/trafficking

2. SPEAK UP ABOUT IT

Sexual exploitation is driven by demand. Speak up about the realities of women and girls exploited in the sex industry.

3. CHALLENGE IT

Contact your federal, provincial or local government representative to ask what they're doing about sex trafficking, raise the issue with your local paper, or bring it up at a community meeting.

4. STOP IT

If you suspect that sex trafficking is happening in your community, or you are a trafficking victim, contact a local sexual assault line, women's crisis line, or police.

5. CHANGE IT

Help the Canadian Women's Foundation to bring an end to the sex trafficking of women and girls in Canada. Visit canadianwomen.org to donate today.

*“I want to share.
I want to make a difference.
I don’t want to die
without having made a difference.”*

*“Where is the action? When is it taking place?
I am ready to go up to Parliament Hill.”*

*“I am going to write a book about what
led up to it, where it started, how I got out,
and how I am a successful woman.”*

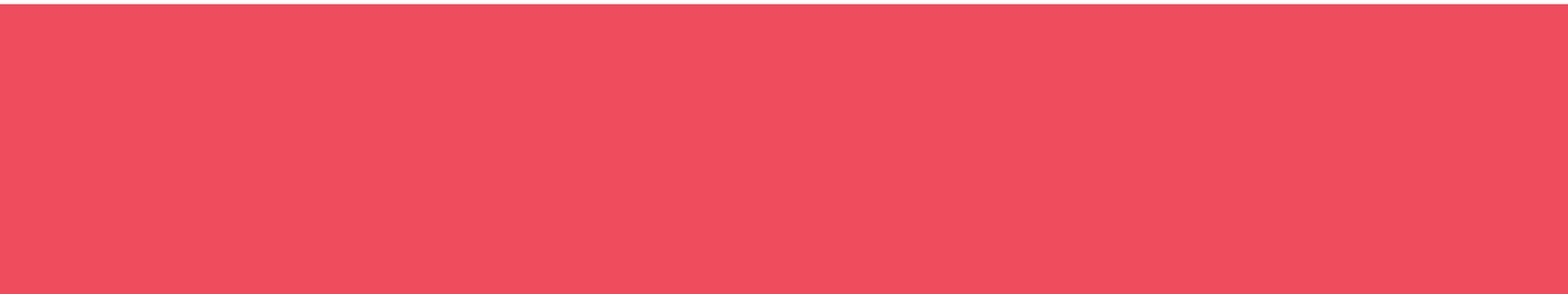
*“My strength was I was a nerd.
I crave the news.
I got a job as a journalist, and
now I’m an advocate.”*

GROUNDBREAKING.

*“The pain we lived through
is the basis for driving system change...
We need to work with the other women
who haven’t been through this and want to help us.”*

*“Every week I write a letter to myself,
to that little girl inside of me,
and I tell that little girl
the things I am proud of in her.
That helps bring my spirit back
and I keep standing.”*

*“I was strong and they could not break me.
I want to be recognized for being a survivor –
for being smart, for being a great mother.
If I can save one little girl from lying in a den of wolves,
that will be my legacy.”*



133 Richmond Street West, Suite 504, Toronto, Ontario M5H 2L3
Toll free: 1-866-293-4483 | TTY: 416-365-1732 | Fax: 416-365-1745
www.canadianwomen.org | info@canadianwomen.org
Charitable Registration Number: 12985-5607-RR0001

The full Task Force findings and recommendations can be found at: canadianwomen.org/trafficking