

“We are at a
critical moment.”

**REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON SERVICE DELIVERY
FOR TRAFFICKED WOMEN AND GIRLS IN CANADA**

SEPTEMBER 18, 2013



CANADIAN
WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION

TASK FORCE ON
TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS
IN CANADA

This report summarizes the discussion of the September 18, 2013 *National Roundtable for Service Providers* hosted by the Canadian Women's Foundation's Task Force on Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada.

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Special thanks to Task Force members Manjit Chand, Marie Delorme and Mary Mowbray for helping to lead or record the day's discussion.

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THE ROUNDTABLE

On September 18th, 2013 the Canadian Women's Foundation brought together 46 of Canada's leading providers of services for trafficked women and girls.

THE GOAL:

To identify the services and system changes that could:

- prevent trafficking
- respond to the immediate needs of trafficked women and girls, and
- help women and girls leave exploitive situations and rebuild their lives.

During this full-day roundtable, representatives from women's-, Aboriginal- and immigrant-serving organizations, police departments, shelters, hospitals, community organizations and anti-trafficking initiatives generated hundreds of ideas, practices and recommendations.

For many participants, this was their first chance to meet with their counterparts from across Canada. It was also a unique opportunity for police and nurses, shelter workers and women's advocates to meet together as colleagues in the trafficking sector.

A PIVOTAL MOMENT

This roundtable comes at a central moment in the work of the Foundation's 23-member Task Force on Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada.

Since it was formed in January 2013, the Task Force has learned from two cross-Canada consultations, hearing from over 150 experiential women and 250 organizations in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Toronto and the GTA, Montreal and Halifax. As the Foundation saw good work it funded it, disbursing almost \$600,000 in grants.

Now the Task Force is preparing for the next phase of its work: to develop recommendations to end the trafficking of women and girls in Canada. A National Roundtable with Experiential Women is planned for December 2013, along with site visits in Saskatchewan and consultations with sex trade organizations in February. Task Force meetings on public awareness campaigns and the funding environment are also planned in the new year.

A SHARED COMMITMENT

The participants at the National Roundtable for Service Providers have committed their time, expertise and money to help trafficked women and girls. So has the Canadian Women's Foundation.

For the Foundation, ending trafficking is intrinsically linked to our priorities: ending violence against women, helping women transition out of poverty, and building strong, resilient girls.

We look forward to working with service providers across Canada to meet our shared goal - an end to the trafficking of women and girls in Canada.

THE ROUNDTABLE

CO-CHAIRS:

Margot Franssen, Co-Chair
Canadian Women's Foundation Board
Toronto, ON

Sheila O'Brien, Co-Chair
Canadian Women's Foundation Board
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SPEAKERS:

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Maureen Adams
Vice-President, Grants and Community
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YWCA Toronto | A Turning Point for Women

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SPECIAL GUESTS:

The Donner Canadian Foundation
Pathy Family Foundation
City of Toronto
Government of Canada
- Department of Justice Fund

“Yesterday I found my voice.
Today I’m here to shout about it.”

SHARON SIMPSON JOSEPH TELLS THE YOUTHSPARK STORY

Sharon Simpson Joseph is the Executive Director of youthSpark, a movement of individuals, organizations, government and youth in Atlanta Georgia committed to ending child sex trafficking.

Under Sharon’s leadership, youthSpark has brought new services and powerful public awareness campaigns to Atlanta. Their work has led to tougher laws to protect girls, fueled by moral outrage that trafficking could be happening in their city.

Sharon is an attorney, advocate, educator, and community organizer. She is also a poet and author of *And How My Spirit Soars: Learning to Pack for an Extraordinary Journey* based on her life-long journals.

HOW WE BEGAN

Our struggle to end sex trafficking began when juvenile court judges started noticing girls as young as 10 in their courtrooms, in orange jump suits and shackles, charged with prostitution. They said, “What’s going on here? How can this be possible?” We had a group of girls called prostitutes. What they *are* is “prostituted.”

Judge Nina Hickson wrote an *op ed* that was published in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. We feared people would say, “That doesn’t happen in our city.” But others said, “What can I do?” A collaborative was born.

We knew one organization couldn’t do it alone. To accomplish change, we would need some key system changes and partnerships. We founded the Juvenile Justice Fund, partnering closely with the court system. And we commissioned research to make the case for action.

It’s not easy to do this research. The facts are buried in the fabric of society. But we learned there were over 200 under-aged girls being prostituted in Georgia every month.

We went to a few key leaders with the information. Just one responded. But she risked her career to take a stand.

THE JOURNEY

This journey is about change, constantly reflecting on our work and how we can grow the movement.

When we started, it was a misdemeanor to prostitute children. We worked to make it a felony. That was huge.

Through a generous \$1 million donation through the Women’s Funding Network we founded Angela’s House, a safe house for girls like Annika. Annika was 13 when she came through the Fulton County Juvenile Court. For Annika, being arrested was a saving grace, because it got her away from her pimp. But a safe house is also challenging. Even with a system in place, how do we help girls let go of the past and begin to dream of a future? We began to ask, “What if we could put the safe houses out of business?” We worked so hard to create them, and we know they benefit girls. But how can we end the need? How can we create a multi-tiered strategy – advocacy, safe house, court support?

We forged powerful relationships with the Atlanta Police. We’ve helped train 3500 police officers, and they have trained others in Georgia. A few months ago at a routine traffic stop, an officer noticed the demeanor of a 16 year old in the back seat. He asked a few questions. It turns out she was trafficked from Alabama. The perpetrator is now serving time.

“Some people ask, ‘Why can’t a girl just walk away?’
Our point is this: it’s just not right to pimp a child.”

A FUTURE. NOT A PAST.

We know sex trafficking is a business. If we look at it that way – supply and demand – maybe we can make more headway. This is where the *A future. Not a past.* Campaign began.

We commissioned the Georgia Demand Study to learn who was buying sex from under-age girls. We discovered almost half came from Atlanta’s more affluent suburbs. People had been comfortable thinking of this as an inner-city issue. We learned that was not the case.

Having the information helped us build coalitions. We got a grant for billboards that would send messages directly to the johns. The campaign started in 2010, and it has grown in strength. We partnered with *Georgia’s Not Buying It*, a coalition led by the Attorney General, law enforcement and non-profit advocates. Athletes used Public Service Announcements to take a stand against criminals who purchase sex from children.

We also designed a guide that tells our story. We share this toolkit with other states, who can adapt it to their own community.

GOING UPSTREAM

We always ask, “What’s the next piece of the puzzle to create true systemic change?” We looked at the continuum of sexual abuse, and asked, “How do we go upstream, to catch girls early?” We decided the next step was to help girls at a direct risk of commercial sex exploitation find their voice. The Voices Project was formed.

That’s what we’re committed to: to give youth a voice. To ignite justice and inspire change. To give kids a chance for better lives without exploitation, abuse and hopelessness – and to change the system so the next generation won’t be faced with the same challenges.

We celebrate hope.

“When a dad was driving [one of our participants] home, he put his hand on her. She said, ‘That’s exploitation.’ He said, ‘You better not tell.’ But she told.”

“The violence can’t be over-estimated.”

EARLY FINDINGS FROM THE TASK FORCE ON TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN CANADA

Maureen Adams is the Canadian Women’s Foundation’s Vice-President of Grants and Community Initiatives. Over the past two years, she has joined Task Force members and staff in cross-Canada consultations on trafficking, meeting with over 400 individuals from 250 organizations, and over 150 experiential women.

These consultations included meetings with survivor-led groups; Aboriginal organizations and Elders; Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women’s Inquiry staff; women’s sexual assault centres, shelters and YWCAs; organizations serving racialized women and girls and immigrants and refugees; child welfare and youth organizations; policing and justice centre representatives, including Crown Prosecutors and victim witness programs; anti-trafficking groups and coalitions; faith communities; and Government Ministers and staff.

At the roundtable, Maureen reported on the key findings from these consultations.

WHAT WE KNOW

Trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation is a **deeply gendered practice**. Most of the people being trafficked are girls and young women. Most of the people who benefit from their exploitation are men.

Trafficking must be **viewed in the context of violence against women and girls**. It is part of a continuum that includes domestic violence, sexual assault, the normalization of rape culture and the growth of child luring and violent child pornography.

The laws that could protect women and girls are **complex and cross jurisdictions**. Trafficking legislation is a federal responsibility and child welfare is a provincial responsibility, while municipalities regulate body rub and massage parlours.

Roundtable participants said . . .

“Based on my work experience the findings are a true reflection of the current issues in Canada.”

WHAT WE LEARNED FROM EXPERIENTIAL WOMEN

Girls and young women are typically recruited, lured and groomed by pimps, gangs or peers between the ages of 11 and 15. Most are 13 years old when they are forced into prostitution. By age 18, girls are typically deemed less valuable to their trafficker.

Trafficking is an act of coercion. Some girls are **monitored, tracked and tattooed** to prevent escape. Some have a history of addiction. Others are forced to **take drugs as a method of control**, or **use drugs to self-medicate**. Many are told they must pay significant **debt, bondage or exit fees**. Many are transported from city to city. Some are sold. **Many experience trauma** – a loss of identity, autonomy and an independent world view.

We also heard about the power of survivor-led initiatives, including services, public awareness and advocacy.

Roundtable participants said . . .

“Still surprised (although I shouldn’t really be) by how young some of the girls are.”

WHAT WE LEARNED FROM STAKEHOLDERS

- 1 Trafficking and sexual exploitation is about gender, race and class – services need to be guided by **a women centered approach and a gender analysis of violence against women**
- 2 **Root causes** such as poverty, and a lack of affordable housing must be addressed in tandem with service delivery
- 3 **Experiential women** must play a key role in the development of strategies and services
- 4 There is a strong need for **prevention and public awareness** that targets multiple groups: women and girls, men and boys, traffickers and john’s, the general public
- 5 **Legal reform is critical:** trafficking legislation, temporary resident permits for those without status in Canada, exploitation on the internet, and child welfare practices
- 6 **System change is needed:** policy change, co-ordinated services, protocol development, research and evaluation.

WHAT WE NEED

Both service providers and experiential women told us we need:

- 1 **Prevention services** for at-risk girls; internet safety for teens; public awareness campaigns; regulation of massage parlours, strip clubs and escort agencies; and strategies that address demand
- 2 **First response**, including 24/7 supports (policing, medical and community); safe houses and detox beds, legal assistance, interpreters and victim services, and relocation on request
- 3 **Services that rebuild lives:** peer support groups; trauma informed counseling and healing programs; access to educational upgrading, meaningful employment and permanent housing; victim witness and pre-trial support; revocation of criminal records
- 4 **System change:** data collection and analysis; cross-jurisdictional and cross-sectoral strategies; business sector initiatives; specialized training across sectors; support for vicarious trauma for front-line staff.

For more on the Canadian Women’s Foundation’s work against trafficking, see www.canadianwomen.org/trafficking .

ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANTS SAID...

“Like the experiential focus. Need the women’s voices to come through in the final analysis.”

“Crucially important for local organizations to have the validated research that corroborates our work.”

“The Canadian Women’s Foundation understands the issues of migration from First Nations communities to urban centres, poverty, and high rates of girls in Child Welfare system.”

“A fierce compassion.
A laser-like tough love”

THE PRINCIPLES AND VALUES THAT GUIDE OUR WORK

What principles and values should guide our collective work to end trafficking of women and girls?

The over 100 responses to this question showed a marked consensus among participants. Here are the major themes.

PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE A NATIONAL EFFORT

REMEMBER ROOT CAUSES:

The economic inequality that robs women of choices and creates opportunities for men to exploit them; the continued prevalence of violence against women; the historic and *continuing* experience of colonization and racism; a culture that hyper-sexualizes girls and fuels demand; the inherently exploitive nature of the sex trade. It's about understanding women and girls are worth more than their bodies.

FOCUS ON HUMAN RIGHTS:

The human rights of trafficked women and girls should guide all aspects of our work. Immigrants and refugees must be able to gain support without fear of deportation.

PUT EXPERIENTIAL WOMEN AT THE CENTRE:

Experiential women are the real experts. They must be involved in all our work, ensuring their experience is used to formulate strategies for prevention, education and intervention.

COLLABORATION MAKES US POWERFUL:

All sectors need to work together: every level of government; social services agencies; the police; the courts; the travel and hospitality industries. Collaboration will require trust and open-mindedness, and recognition of the common ground that transcends ideology. It will require us to let go of “our turf.” And it will require us to find ways to sustain partnerships even when individual champions leave.

STAY THE COURSE:

To rebuild their lives, women need alternatives and long-term possibilities. Funding and service staff need to be in it for the long haul. Use a “seven generation” lens. Be tenacious.

“This could happen
to anyone.”

“Fierce compassion [means] coming at it with a level of love, understanding and caring. Fierce – because it’s an extremely intensive, laser-like tough love – from stakeholders, from workers, from the girls themselves and from each other.”

VALUES TO GUIDE OUR WORK ON THE GROUND

BE FIERCELY COMPASSIONATE:

Informed by a deep caring, refusing to pass judgment. Non-punitive. Supportive. Empathetic. Hopeful.

PUT SAFETY FIRST:

Make women’s safety the guiding principle for any intervention. Women and girls need safe spaces. Services must be confidential and de-stigmatized.

RECOGNIZE THE TRAUMA:

Understand the deep impact of trauma on trafficked women and girls. Recognize the signs of trauma. Incorporate holistic approaches that “do no harm,” and instead build trust, mutuality, empowerment, voice and choice. Appreciate the long-term nature of healing.

STAY RELEVANT:

Stay attuned to the values and traditions of Aboriginal peoples, refugees and newcomers. Be respectful of all voices. Reflect regional differences. Be ready to adapt to changing needs.

ADVANCE AGENCY:

Ensure women gain and retain their agency. “Be humble – don’t think you are the one who is saving her.”

“Recognize colonization and racism exists. It’s real and it’s now.”

“Listen to what’s really happening. Maintain programs that are relevant, constantly keeping current.”

“Help! I’m falling through the cracks.”

WHAT MAKES WOMEN AND GIRLS VULNERABLE?

We asked the roundtable participants to name the three greatest points of vulnerability for women and girls trafficked in Canada.

EXPERIENCES

Many participants focused on the **experiences** that made women and girls vulnerable to trafficking. The word cloud presents the most frequent responses. The larger the word or phrase, the more often it was used.



ENVIRONMENT

Some focused on the **environment** that makes girls and women vulnerable. The top five factors mentioned:

- 1 Weaknesses in the child welfare system
- 2 Community trauma - the result of colonization, residential schools and the continued isolation of Aboriginal communities
- 3 The hyper-sexualization of girls and the glamourization of the sex trade
- 4 A lack of jurisdictional and service co-ordination
- 5 Service providers who are not able to identify or respond to signs of trafficking

MOMENTS

Others focused on the **moments in a girl's life** that made her particularly vulnerable. These included such “firsts” as:

- Entering the teen years - the developmental stage where girls seek out love and identity
- Entering into a first intimate relationship
- Starting to use Facebook, Instagram and other social media
- Unsupervised after-school hours. Travelling home at night
- Dropping out or being expelled from school
- Entering a group home, or leaving care
- Running away from home, or being kicked out, with nowhere to go
- Coming to the city from a rural community or another country
- Coming to Canada with the promise of a job
- A financial crisis, and no employment opportunities
- Wanting to exit an exploitive relationship, but no supports or options in sight.

“You have a narrow window to act.”

MAKING THE MOST OF THE “TURNING POINT” MOMENTS

What are the moments when a girl is most vulnerable to trafficking? And what are the turning points – the moments when services can make the most difference in a girl’s life, or help a woman leave an exploitive situation?

Roundtable participants discussed a wide range of high risk, high opportunity moments. Nine of these “turning points” are described in the following pages. Here are some of the common themes.

GO UPSTREAM.

Six of the nine “turning points” – and strategies associated with all nine turning points – focused on prevention. For participants, prevention meant:

- familiarizing people who work with children and youth, such as foster parents, teachers, school bus drivers and custodians, with the reality of trafficking
- equipping professionals to identify and support high-risk girls
- equipping girls to recognize and resist luring.

FIRST RESPONSE MEANS INSTANT SERVICE.

The first moment of contact – with the police, a shelter, or an emergency room – is crucial. First responders must be ready to offer a comprehensive package of services, including a safe place to stay, counseling and help with next steps. Failing to act quickly and confidently can undermine trust, or risk losing contact altogether.

EVERYONE NEEDS ONE PERSON THEY CAN RELY ON.

Many participants spoke of the value of one trustworthy person: a case manager, a teacher or guidance counselor, a navigator, advocate, champion, role model or spiritual guide. Girls are safer when they have someone to turn to, and someone who knows them well enough to spot trouble. Everyone needs a consistent helper to navigate the legal and service systems, and support them as they rebuild their lives.

SUCCESS DEPENDS ON STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIPS.

Focus on:

- *the school system*: to build awareness, identify and intervene in high-risk situations and deliver curricula on healthy relationships and trafficking
- *the police*: to build good relationships between police and youth, and between police and the community sector
- *the Violence Against Women sector*: to learn from the philosophy, policies, protocols and experiences that helped grow this sector.

SUPPORT COLLABORATION WITH GOOD SYSTEMS.

To facilitate collaboration, particularly as girls and women transition from emergency to longer-term supports, we need protocols that permit information-sharing, support referrals and “circles of care,” and overcome differences in organizational cultures.

INVOLVE EXPERIENTIAL WOMEN – AND DON’T EXPLOIT THEM.

Participants saw the strength experiential women could bring as mentors, guides, role models and speakers, but were still seeking ways to identify, equip and integrate experiential women into service delivery.

STRATEGIES FOR THE TURNING POINT MOMENTS

| PREVENT | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| THE MOMENT | THE STRATEGIES | SYSTEM CHANGES |
| 1 RUNNING AWAY AND NO PLACE TO LIVE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention: drop-ins and other safe spaces in shopping malls • Immediate intervention. Delays lead to mistrust. • A case manager assigned to see a case through, co-ordinate agency supports, and spot signs a girl might run away again • A service package: counseling, healthcare, detox, shelter, a home that protects her from further victimization • Survivors as mentors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivate trust between youth and police through athletics and other shared activities • Establish systems that promote communication among police, youth protection, child and family services, women's organization, schools, youth organizations, prosecutors, families or foster families • Create systems that facilitate transitions: police expertise ends where the community starts • Strengthen the police mandate to focus on demand and pimps • Learn from Winnipeg's StreetReach program. Adapt the Truck Stop model for front-line staff in hotels and other industries |
| 2 GOING AWAY TO SCHOOL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a one-stop shop for First Nations youth: to learn what to expect, to help the receiving family, to set up supports • Train teachers and support staff to receive rural First Nations students • Inform international students of trafficking risks, not just "how to be a student" • Train educators to spot signs of abuse • Create an environment that respects the student's culture and builds self-esteem and healthy relationships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen partnerships with teachers' unions - ensure teachers recognize signs and know where to refer students • Strengthen links between police and schools • Ensure children have access to education, regardless of the parent's visa status |
| 3 TROUBLE AT SCHOOL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivate a 'culture of acknowledgment' that trafficking exists • Work with school counselors to identify high-risk girls • Enlist support from school custodians, bus drivers, secretaries • Recognize someone other than parents may need to be the child's champion • Develop positive peer models. Involve experiential women in developing curricula on healthy relationships • Learn from Brain Power - a North Preston program to educate kids Grades 4 - 6 about their own culture and history | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Stay in School programs • Establish protocols to facilitate information sharing between service providers and schools • Strengthen service and mental health partnerships with schools • Include trafficking in mandatory reporting of child abuse • Send the Task Force's report on trafficking to school boards |

“We need ‘target hardening.’ Girls are prepared. They know how they might be approached, and what to do.”

Strategies for the turning point moments...

| PREVENT | | |
|--|---|---|
| THE MOMENT | THE STRATEGIES | SYSTEM CHANGES |
| 4 FIRST ATTEMPT AT RECRUITMENT - IN PERSON OR ONLINE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Target hardening” to equip girls to recognize and resist luring • Create an environment that supports a circle of healthy relationships • Establish well-supervised drop-ins and other safe spaces for youth • Provide information on on-line safety • Develop apps that show girls when and where to get help • Scan Backpage.com to contact women and offer help | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a nationally-funded school curriculum that includes information on healthy relationships and trafficking • Learn from Manitoba’s “Kids in the Know” program on healthy relationships for kindergarten to Grade 9 students • Invoke corporate responsibility for online trafficking. Facebook, Backpage, Craig’s List, advertisers, all need to be at the table • Look at how technology is used for sexual violence and trafficking • Tell men not to rape instead of telling women how to dress and act |
| 5 AGING OUT OF CARE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide mandatory training for foster parents on early childhood abuse, and the link to future trafficking risk • Offer role models, mentors or guides • Create access to Elders or to therapy • Offer financial support or forgivable loans to pay for tuition, books, tutoring | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide free college/university education for any child exiting child welfare • Develop safe, supportive housing with on-site counselors • Give children leaving care priority on social housing waiting lists |
| 6 MIGRANT WOMAN SEEKS HELP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guarantee safety. Remove barriers that prevent women from seeking help (e.g. fear of deportation; fear child welfare will remove children) • Provide information on exiting trafficking • Conduct a needs assessment. Assign advocates who can help women choose whether to stay or return to their home country, and can facilitate that choice • Provide over-the-phone translation services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide access to Temporary Resident Permits for women and their <i>children</i> • Legislate protections that over-ride legislation on legal status (i.e. right to protection should over-ride lack of legal status in Canada) • Train police and immigration officers to know when to apply these protections • Enforce a “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy on immigration status when called to situations of exploitation |

Strategies for the turning point moments...

“Experiential women bring knowledge not learned in schools. Yet I’ve seen experiential women offer up their experience, unpaid, only to be replaced by a social worker when the position was funded.”

“Create Women’s Safety Navigators – similar to Breast Cancer Navigators in hospitals – who would work with women across various systems step-by-step.”

Strategies for the turning point moments...

| RESPOND | | |
|---|---|--|
| THE MOMENT | THE STRATEGIES | SYSTEM CHANGES |
| <p>7 MAKING CONTACT WITH “THE SYSTEM:” THE POLICE, A SHELTER, A HOSPITAL</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide trained intervenors who understand the issues and know the questions to ask. Ensure women are believed • Provide hope - “this is what we can do for you” • Develop a package of services: a safe place to stay in the short- and long-term (including alternatives that permit pets); medical services, trauma counseling; assistance with legal status; money • Provide recovery centres that allow women to stay several months to heal and explore options slowly and deliberately • Match experiential women with women living through it • Relieve women from the fear of arrest and prosecution • Address the fear of speaking out against the trafficker • Provide case workers to address immigration issues • Fund ten women to get out of trafficking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Every door is the right door” • Use a broad inclusive definition of trafficking • Develop a well-informed and organized network where women do not need to retell their story time and time again; a central co-ordinator could help • Develop protocols for gaining consents to share information • Formalize organizational relationships to provide systematic continuity • Connect trafficking work to Violence Against Women’s and other women’s services • Gain buy-in from shelters to work with vulnerable and undocumented people • Learn from Manitoba’s “one stop shop” model for child abuse victims; and the Today Family Violence Help Centre in Edmonton • Create a 24/7 mobile outreach or co-location of systems – not bricks and mortar (except for supportive housing) • Fund small pilot projects that foster collaboration • Fund case studies, outcome measures, research and pilot projects across the continuum of services • Use money seized in trafficking cases to support women |
| REBUILD | | |
| <p>8 NO MONEY TO PAY THE RENT OR GET TRAINING</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a financial safety net for rent, childcare, education • Provide case managers who can check in and provide ongoing support • Link women to affordable housing • Fund transportation • Hold dedicated child care spots for women in need • Provide post-secondary scholarships for women who have left trafficking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find ways for women on social assistance to earn and save money without losing their benefits • Use civil forfeiture to fund programs for victims of sexual exploitation • Fund the expunging of criminal records so women can find work • Learn from Second Chance Program (life skills and employment skills training) in Nova Scotia. |
| <p>9 DEALING WITH POST-TRAFFICKING TRAUMA</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create stability: subsidized long-term affordable housing; responsive short- and long-term programming; ongoing help to find and sustain employment; case management and follow-up services • Provide trauma-informed counseling and spiritual and cultural resources to bring the woman back to wholeness • Provide addiction services specifically for women (not just mixed/co-ed) • Provide second stage support after leaving detox/addiction services • Learn from the Alumnae Group at Ndinawe Child and Youth Care Program, where mentors and mentees can work through their issues • Acknowledge the long term healing process with different stages of support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the legal system’s culture so it does not re-introduce victim blaming • Create a case management model to co-ordinate services • Provide cross-Canada training in trafficking trauma for service professionals • Develop an education strategy for band/reserve/religious leaders • Support Elders to have a strong leadership voice • Support a network for service workers experiencing vicarious trauma • Institute social accounting to show that if we don’t help now, we pay later |

“Be an influencer for change.”

COLLABORATING TO CHANGE SYSTEMS

Participants were asked for the best ways to collaborate to change systems. Here are the 12 leading themes, and some of the ideas generated:

1 CO-ORDINATE NATIONALLY

Create a national multi-sectoral advisory committee • Bring together sexually exploited girls and policy-makers • Organize forums and conferences to build awareness and share resources • Work with other national groups to put trafficking on the agenda • Tap existing federal networks • Identify 2 - 3 service components available across the country, such as shelters or crisis response teams, and build on these networks • Create a best practice template for service providers, removing issues of geographical differences in services • Create a database with materials on awareness campaigns, school curricula, train-the-trainer programs - a one-stop shop for service providers, educators, policy-makers

“Create 10 Year Plans to End Sexual Exploitation” in municipalities, provinces and the country. In Alberta, 7 cities and the province have 10 year plans to end homelessness. We can learn what created the political will to establish these plans; the budgets established to fund the first priorities in the first few years; and the data collection and evaluation processes established to measure progress, improve outcomes and build evidence.”

“[We need] one centralized contact # to initiate support services for front-line workers at the time of intervention. Why are we relying solely on NGOs to facilitate and co-ordinate services?”

2 CO-ORDINATE REGIONALLY

Fund collaboration - it doesn't happen on its own • Identify hubs to establish beds, services, shelters • Organize monthly meetings of regional first responders to identify at-risk girls and suspected exploiters • Mandate interaction between survivors and policy-makers, law enforcement leadership and judicial leadership • Develop mandates within our organizations and governments towards collaborative communication • Develop consent/confidentiality protocols to allow service providers to share information • Conduct formal debriefings at the conclusion of major trafficking trials • Create a High Risk Victims Protocol • Identify local barriers to marginalized groups • Share training. Link first-responders with second stage services • Consider how women's services can work with youth and child protection agencies to support girls 13 -16 • Create provincial Boards of Experts, including police, Crowns, experiential voices, to provide accurate information on child protection law, inter-jurisdictional issues

3 COMPILE AND SHARE INFORMATION

“Research we can stand on” that: uses a national common intake form, informs training, policy and services, and is conducted annually • Form a nationwide registry of service providers • Survey various sectors to collect empirical data for policy development • Create a national database of those who exploit and buy • Ensure the geographical journey of trafficked women is recorded to inform service providers • Ensure research reflects practical recommendations for health, education, police, NGOs and government

“Ideally a research institute . . . like Polaris in the US would host and lead the training of future leaders in this area.”

4 BUILD YOUTH AWARENESS. EMPOWER YOUNG GIRLS TO MAKE HEALTHY CHOICES

Facilitate a standard national education program for girls and boys • Focus on grades 6 – 8 • Peer survivor presentations in high schools • Social media ads • Engage youth in creating awareness ads, plays, social media • Foster good relationships with police

“Include parents of vulnerable and trafficked girls for information and mutual support.”

“Tracia’s Trust in Manitoba was a provincial strategy that began as a grassroots conversation.”

“In 1997 there was an international summit on sexually exploited children and youth... that shifted the terminology from ‘child prostitute’ to ‘child exploitation.’ It’s time to reconvene, in Canada or across the Americas.”

5 INCLUDE SURVIVORS

Support a national gathering of experiential youth to review the 1997 Agenda for Action • Protect anonymity. Create composites of girls’ stories so one person isn’t singled out • Create a Code of Ethics for all agencies to avoid sensationalizing or revictimizing women through the “speakers’ circuit”

6 CREATE A NATIONAL PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

“Change the story.” • Create a public social movement founded on moral outrage. Involve government – their logos on the ads • Use opinion polling • Gather media – publishers, editorial boards, anchors, executive producers – for a day of hearing, learning, clarifying language, etc. • Identify men in high corporate positions as champions to speak out

7 ADDRESS DEMAND

Use community-based approaches • Increase shame for perpetrators. Criminalize those who exploit • Apply the Domestic Violence Act to the purchase of sexual services • Limit or eliminate licensing of businesses living off avails of prostitution

“Develop code of conduct for industries that support exploitation – transportation, hotels, travel – nationally.”

8 STRENGTHEN THE FRONT-LINE

Create training materials for service workers, including front-line workers, teachers, school liaison officers • Include mandatory training on human trafficking in professional schools (e.g. health care, policing), with continued professional training • Encourage cross-training • Develop standardized training within child welfare system across Canada for early intervention for children at risk of sexual exploitation • Designate case managers who can remain consistent with victim. Match experts in different areas to build a specialized team

“In the VAW field, mandatory service minimums were set in 1999 . . . Every police force was required to give officers three days of training.”

9 EXPAND SHORT- AND MEDIUM-TERM HOUSING OPTIONS

Expand shelter beds that can be held for emergency beds • Funding for short-term hotel beds, second- and third-stage housing • Give trafficking victims the same priority as domestic violence victims on housing waiting lists • More trauma-informed housing for women with health problems • Consistent training for front-line safe house staff in trauma, addictions, sexual assault

“Not a lot of single VAW beds. 17 year old girls don’t fit the VAW or homeless population.”

10 BUILD EXIT STRATEGIES

Pilot a model for a continuum of services for women leaving trafficking, reflecting best practices from other jurisdictions • Need policy around economic development options to create lives outside of the sex trade • Note example of EMPOWER U in Alberta (financial literacy and matched savings)

11 ADDRESS LEGAL ISSUES

Create a coherent legislative framework that criminalizes trafficking across Canada • Remove criminal responsibility from trafficked women and girls • Create standardized approaches to help victims and punish perpetrators across jurisdictions • Encourage all levels of government to support Charter-protected rights

Address inconsistent municipal licensing laws • Municipalities need better ability to withdraw licenses or intervene in the case of illegal activity • Consider provincial oversight of massage parlours, strip clubs, etc, modeled on Ontario Lottery and Gaming Commission

Draft a proposed solution to deal with the time delays in bringing a matter to trial • Use domestic violence policing model as a model for trafficking • Change the age people leave care from 18 to 21 (or allow for a case-by-case, graduated approach)

“Police are working to end and prosecute trafficking. Municipalities are licensing establishments where trafficking happens.”

“Hold a First Minister’s meeting of women Premiers and/or children and youth ministers.”

12 GET GOVERNMENT ONSIDE

Lobby for a National Rapporteur • Clarify provincial/federal roles, including setting service standards, mandating local service and policy co-ordination • Commit to resources for dedicated policing and services • Engage all levels of government in public awareness efforts • Advocate for a provincial/municipal co-ordinator for resources, victims and investigations • Challenge Federal Government to invest in women’s groups and Charter challenges

“Although we require national co-ordination and leadership, it is imperative that responses to human trafficking occur at a community level – this is where the victims are identified and where they are assisted. The approach should not be national to local, but local feeding up to national.”

“Make the voices of trafficked women heard right across Canada.”

THE **MOST** IMPORTANT THINGS THE CANADIAN WOMEN’S FOUNDATION CAN DO

Participants were asked to name the three **MOST** important things the Canadian Women’s Foundation can do to prevent and end the trafficking of women and girls.

Participants offered 116 recommendations. Here are the major themes.

“Keep up the work on the issue of sex trafficking for a number of years, like 10 years minimum or longer.”

FOSTER COLLABORATION AND DIALOGUE

- Create opportunities like this roundtable to exchange and elaborate on best practices amongst different partners
- Sustain expert engagement through a task force, national champions table, expert panel or annual symposium
- Keep engaging experiential women. Keep learning from Indigenous women
- Push for a national approach to ending trafficking, including a national and provincial co-ordinating body and national prevention campaign
- Promote collaboration among agencies serving sexually exploited girls
- Market Canadian Women’s Foundation’s work at all types of local and national conferences
- Identify common interests in various sectors (refugees, women’s shelters, etc.)
- Develop/host a national database of service providers.
- Develop an ethics standard/protocol.

FUND AND PUBLISH RESEARCH

- Fund local research that explores the issue of human trafficking in a community context
- Fund research on how many men are buying sexual services of teenagers
- Research, establish and evaluate prevention programs to empower and protect young girls from sexual exploitation
- Disseminate best practices which include quantitative and qualitative data to support findings
- Collect voices of survivors
- Quantify in dollars what trafficking costs Canadian taxpayers each year
- Connect academics and researchers across Canada, North America and Europe to share best practices and inform policy.

“Bring together policy makers and government officials with experiential women.”

“Learn from international initiatives. We have a lot to learn from countries that have dealt with this issue for a long time.”

FUND SERVICES

- Fund regional pilot projects that provide a full continuum of service provided by a local collaborative of service providers
- Provide seed funding for key initiatives
- Support prevention projects targeting vulnerable girls
- Fund early intervention: individual crisis responders and response teams
- Fund long-term recovery programs
- Fund short- and medium-term transitional housing; work with shelter funders to create additional designated shelter beds within shelters or safe houses
- Recognize increased awareness will require increased services.

“Facilitate through funding and other means the increase of availability of detox and treatment beds for victims of trafficking. If girls know that disclosing their status as a victim will result in getting assistance then more girls will come forward.”

“Bring all of the values, ideas and themes from today together in one cohesive picture we can show the world to generate moral outrage and action.”

RAISE AWARENESS

- Lead the effort. Combat the mythology. Educate potential victims, students, parents, clients, politicians
- Create awareness materials that capture the audience: youth friendly, culturally appropriate
- Involve/connect with private/corporate/industry on the issue and how they can be involved
- Work with school boards. Promote annual workshops in schools (mainstream and alternative) about risk factors, resources, etc.
- Help change the attitudes regarding women's bodies.
- Address “demand” at a societal level and engage men to help to champion the issue
- Organize awareness events to better “trauma-inform” service providers
- Keep the issue in the forefront and share the information/successes/challenges as you move forward with the groups you have collaborated with.

ADVOCATE

- Lobby for legislative reform. Reinforce the need for better, uniform legislation (municipal, provincial, federal) through events where politicians could take part
- Advocate for system change – decriminalizing the victims and criminalizing the perpetrators
- Apply pressure for sustained funding
- Promote and demand government accountability. Demand intergovernmental cohesion and organization
- Stand in solidarity with Indigenous/racialized women and girls
- Put pressure on politicians to make police investigation of sexual exploitation of women and girls obligatory. Encourage police leadership to address issue at substantive level
- Develop a human trafficking position within established victim services units to work directly and support victims of human trafficking.

“Keep the issue in the context of violence against women and children. Violence against women is often compartmentalized, segregated and de-genderized...”

INSPIRATION TO MOVE US FORWARD

In her opening remarks, Maureen Adams described the inspiration that has led the Canadian Women's Foundation to make trafficking and sexual exploitation a priority in its violence prevention work. Throughout the day, roundtable participants raised – or exemplified – the same themes:

- The **innocence, wisdom and resilience of girls and young women** and their ability against all odds to rebuild their lives
- The **courage and leadership of Aboriginal women** – their outreach and healing programs, grandmothers' councils and the families of missing and murdered Aboriginal women
- The **remarkable strength of women who are trafficked into Canada** and the immigrant and refugee organizations who, despite barriers, are delivering services, creating awareness and advocating for change
- The emergence of **citizen coalitions and faith-led groups** who are taking on this issue domestically and globally
- **The commitment of everyone in the room.**

“We are at a critical moment here. We can catalyze and mobilize positive social change, motivated by the experiences of girls and women who share their stories and want to be part of shaping this change.”

YESTERDAY I FOUND MY VOICE

Yesterday I found my voice
Today I live to tell about it
I didn't shout it from the rooftops
Didn't whisper or scream
But I spoke, and the words that I heard
Were my own

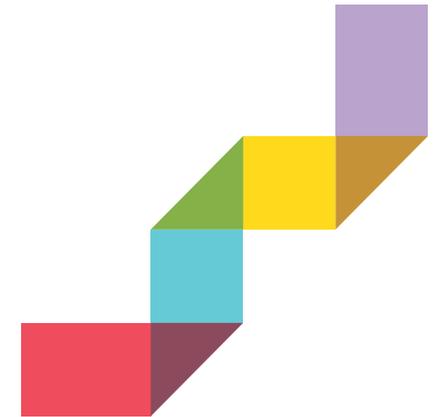
Yesterday I found my voice
Today I live to tell about it
And I sing a hallelujah chorus
In a key I've never tried before
Tell about it. Tell about it

I am a warrior woman
I won't roll over or die
Give up, dry up
Or be sucked up

Yesterday I found my voice
And it's here to stay
Cause I can't let it go
I chant over and over
Write on all my pages
Say it again and again in my head
And then I open my mouth
and cry out loud

Yesterday I found my voice
Today I'm here to shout about it
And this one's for you
All those who know exactly what
I'm talking about...

Sharon Simpson Joseph





CANADIAN
WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION

TASK FORCE ON
TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS
IN CANADA

For more information please visit www.canadianwomen.org/trafficking

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