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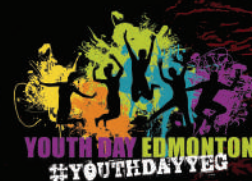


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IN CANADA

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TRAFFICKING



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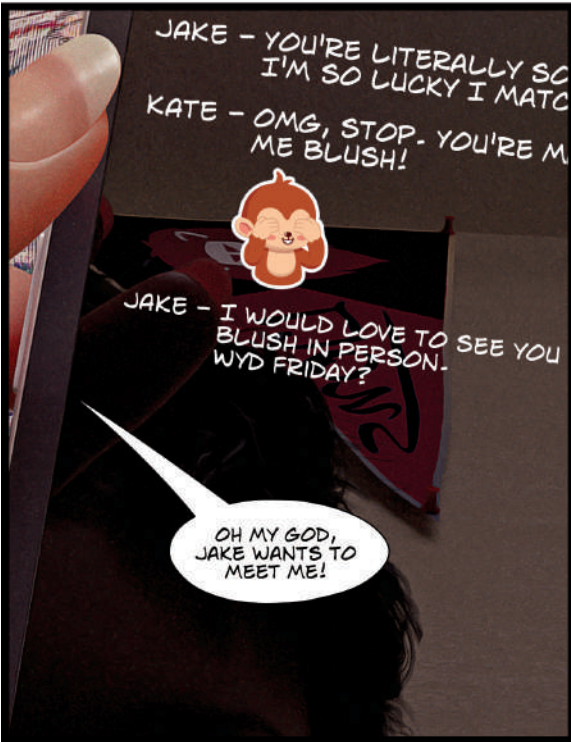
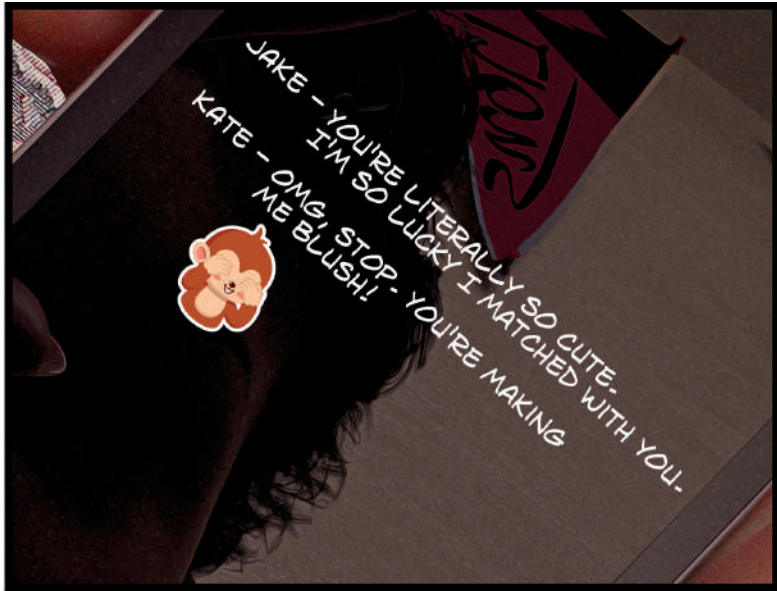
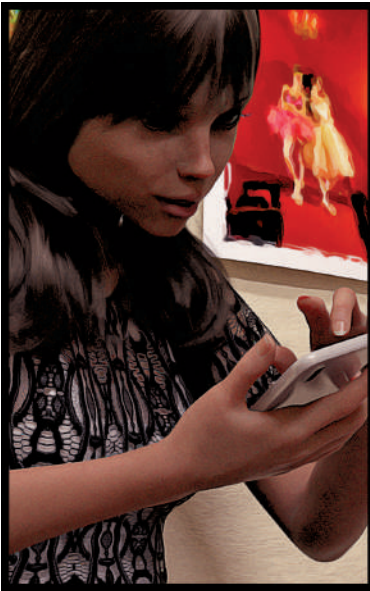
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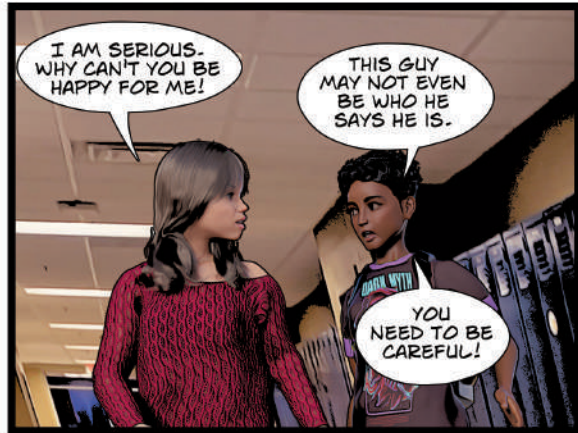
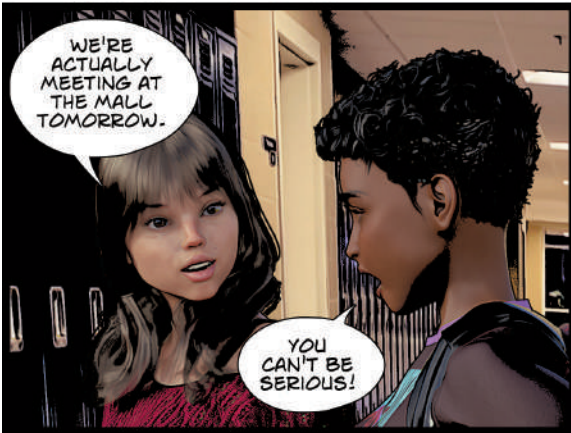
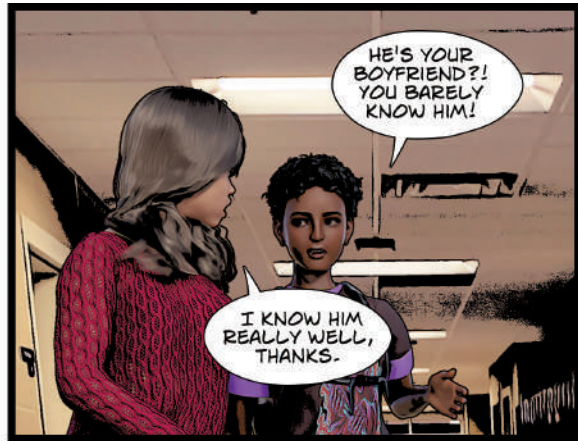
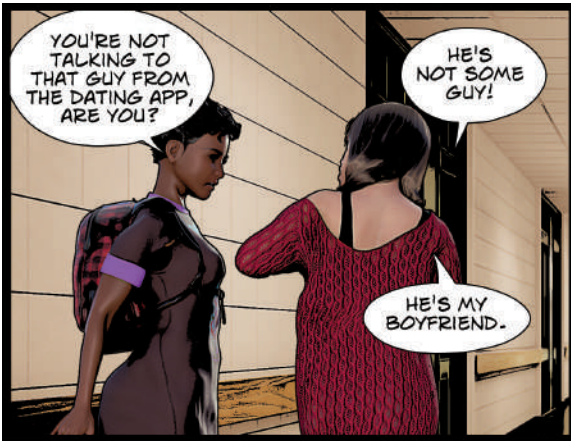
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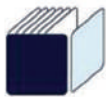
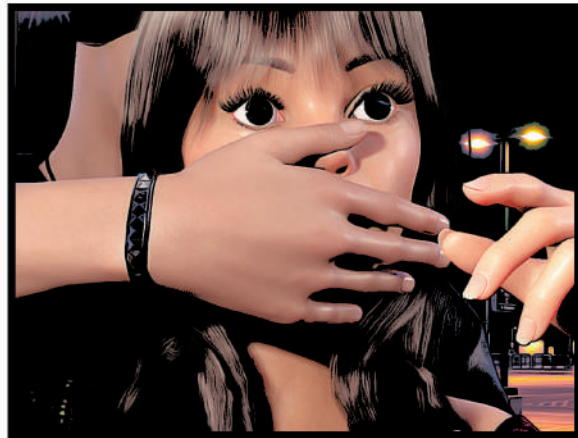
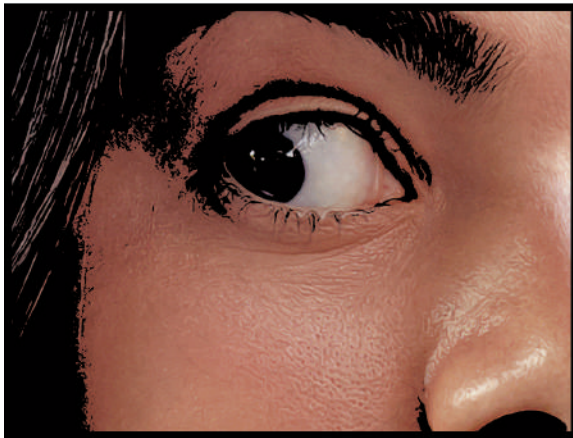
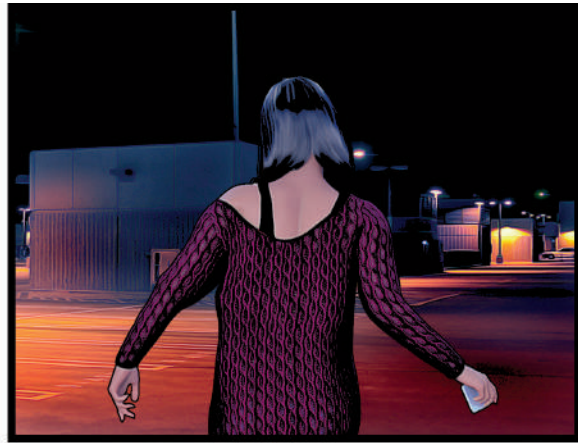


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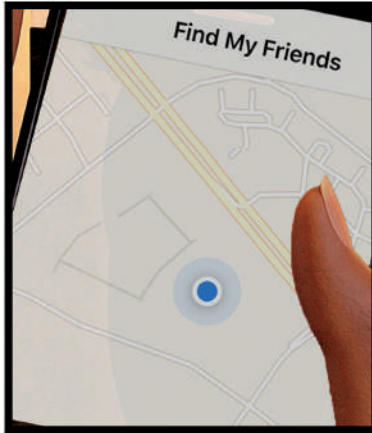
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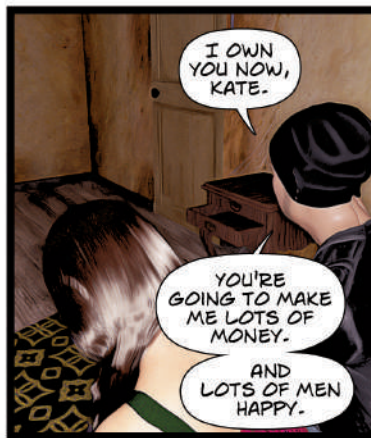
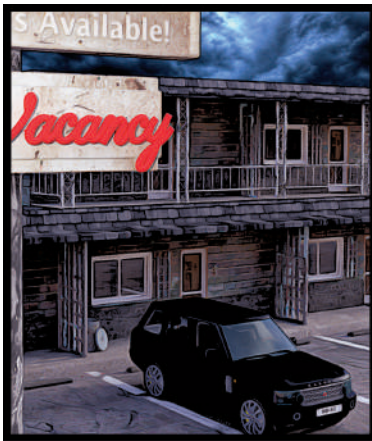
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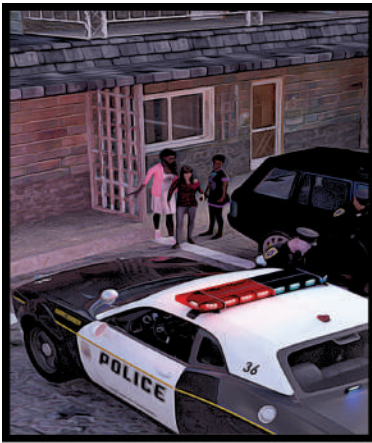


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WHAT IS SAFETY EDUCATION, AND WHY DO I NEED IT?

ARTICLE BY: SAFEGEN

POV: You're in class, and your teacher says, "We're going to learn about workplace safety education." And you're thinking "Immediately, no." We know it's not on the top of your priority list to learn about how electricity and water don't mix, or working with a partner in confined spaces, or even avoiding animal flight zones. But just hear us out; early safety education should absolutely be something you complete when you're entering the workforce, and here's why:

1. Workplace safety education is packed with information that can keep you from getting hurt at work. Even if you work at the mall, or in an ice cream shop, you are at risk of getting injured! Learning how to spot and report hazards could make the difference in whether you get home safely or not.

2. Without your HCS 3000 course, you may not know the basic rights of an employee. These rights are important and will encourage you to speak up when needed, ask questions when you're confused, and overall be an empowered employee.

3. You might have a better chance of getting a job with the JobSafe Certification on your resume or application. Employers will probably think that putting that extra effort in is pretty impressive, and in fact some work programs like RAP, can only be taken after you've completed HCS 3000. Some work placement and internship organizations like CAREERS, are also ensuring their students are in the know about workplace safety.

"It's critical for both apprentices and those mentoring them to understand the roles they play and incorporate safety into every work-integrated learning experience."

- Stacey Rishaug, Director, Marketing Communications, CAREERS

4. If you are educated about jobsite health and safety, you can help your coworkers too. If you see someone at work doing something unsafe, you will have the ability to recognize that and either prevent an accident by speaking to your colleague or the supervisor, or both.

5. You can get one credit per course towards your Alberta high school diploma for each SafeGen JobSafe course you complete.

Did You Know...

Young people aged 15-24 are the most likely to get hurt on the job? This is due to several factors:

- Lack of safety education and training

- Confusion about their tasks
- Willingness to please their supervisors
- Feelings of invincibility
- Fear that they will get in trouble if they refuse unsafe work

Youth workers (ages 15-24) had the highest disabling injury rate of all worker age groups in Alberta; thousands of teens are injured at work every year, and some of them are killed. We don't think any job is worth getting hurt, or worse... and we're sure you'd agree.

"We know from the injury data that young, new workers are the most likely to be injured on the job. Workplace safety education for new workers is crucial to preventing injuries."

- Dan MacLennan, Alberta Construction Safety Association's Chief Executive Officer

What is "workplace health and safety education"?

Unfortunately, there is no workplace that is completely safe. Every job comes with possible physical and psychological hazards. Workplace health and safety education will teach you what hazards are, how to report them, and most importantly, how to avoid them. Identifying hazards around you is the first step to reducing risk or injury.

Educating yourself is just one of the good habits that you can build throughout your life to help you thrive and succeed.

"We want young Albertans to understand the importance of good mental health and physical safety before entering the workforce. The habits we have in our careers—whether productive or disruptive—often begin before we ever step foot on a worksite. We can start by building good habits into our routines. Workplace accidents happen, no matter your experience. Maintaining good physical and mental wellness can help keep you safe."

- Melenie Reid, Communications Advisor, HeadsUp (Workers' Compensation Board – Alberta)

What do you mean by "physical" and "psychological" safety?

Physical safety refers to preventing bodily injury. Traditionally when we think of safety, we think of hazards that make us physically unwell, like tripping and falling, breathing in chemicals, or burning your arm on a cooktop.

Psychological safety refers to hazards that are less tangible, and that affect how we feel and think about ourselves and others. Some examples are bullying or harassment by your colleagues, anxiety, or being over-tired. Although these hazards seem less harmful, they can also affect your work performance and have a heavy impact on your life.

“There is a saying: ‘We don’t know what we don’t know’. To me, this is why learning about psychological safety in workplaces is a life long journey.”

- Megan Hunter, Workplace Training and Programs, Manager CMHA AB

Where can I learn more about all of this?

SafeGen is a registered charity that offers free workplace health and safety courses for Alberta youth aged 15-24. Our JobSafe Program offers three courses:

- HCS 3000: Workplace Safety Systems
- HCS 3010: Workplace Safety Practices

- AGR 3000: Agriculture Safety

Each completed course is worth one credit towards an Alberta high school diploma. Along with our free courses, we also have tons of free health and safety resources including videos, games, and more.

SafeGen also offers a new course called Youth Mental Health in the Workplace. This course focuses on all the information you need to learn about mental health and how it affects your work performance and safety on the job.

Workplace health and safety education may not be the most awesome subject, but staying uninjured and alive is pretty awesome, and learning about these subjects will give you tools you can use for your whole life.

For more information, or to sign up for our free courses, please visit safegen.ca.



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THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY

BY: PAIGE GORDON

The appeal of social media is how easily accessible it is to us. With a simple click of the finger, we are taken to a platform with seemingly endless content and become connected with so many different individuals. But there lies the danger we're exposed to so many people we don't know. Those most at risk are youth. The recent case of the missing Edmonton teen lured and kidnapped via social media put the importance of parents sitting down with their kids and having a critical conversation about internet safety.

Canada's tip line for reporting online sexual abuse and exploitation of children recorded that there had been a 120% increase in child luring reports over the past six months alone and a 150% increase in reports of online child exploitation. This is quite the jump from the 60-70 reports a month they were receiving this time last year.

The Fort Saskatchewan RCMP warned the public about online extortion after receiving multiple reports where young males were being targeted through perpetrators initiating online relationships, convincing them to send intimate photos and then threatening to distribute those photos unless the victim produced money.

That poses the question of how and where these perpetrators are getting access to exploit their victims? The two primary social media platforms that are most commonly targets for online child exploitation are Instagram and Snapchat. Victims are being lured through perpetrators creating an online profile that comes across as seemingly realistic and will appear to be a profile of someone close in age to the victim. The perpetrator will initiate a relationship with the victim and eventually exploit them, commonly through gaining access to an explicit photo or, worse, a victim being physically lured and kidnapped.

In the age of social media, we are in, it's nearly impossible to keep your child entirely off social media platforms. However, you can take measures to ensure that your child is using social media responsibly and safely. Here are some helpful tips on instilling healthy internet safety habits.

1) Privacy:

If your child is going to have a social media profile, set it to private and look into any additional safety restrictions you can turn on.

2) Stranger Danger:

You have taught your children not to talk to strangers; the same rule applies to the internet. Your child should only let people they know follow them on social media.

3) Do not give out personal information:

Anyone who personally knows your child will never ask about their address or what school they attend over social media. Your child must recognize that you should never give out this type of personal information on the internet.

4) Block & Report

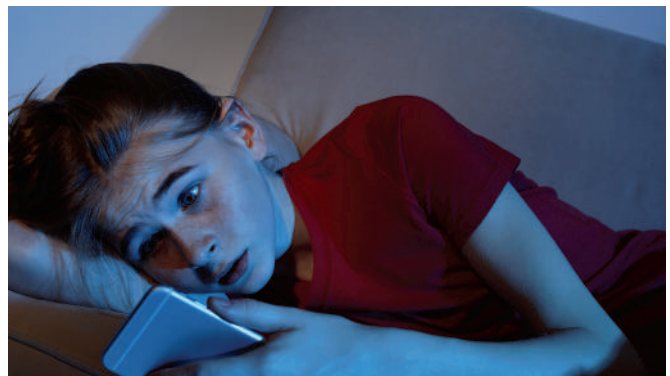
Social media has safety features in place. For example, the blocking and reporting feature can be used for suspicious accounts. Take the time to sit down with your child to ensure they know how to properly use the safety features of the social media app they are using.

5) Know when it's time to log off

Being consumed with social media 24/7 isn't healthy for anyone, especially those in their early teens who are still very impressionable. If you allow your child to be on social media, limit how long and often they can be on it daily. This will not only keep them safe but also benefit their overall well-being.

An essential part of internet safety is to build up your child's self-esteem off the internet before they wander into social media. Gary Vaynerchuk summed it up best with this quote;

"Number one way to protect the child is to build their self-esteem. When a child is not insecure, they don't succumb to danger."



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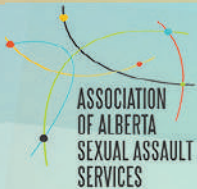
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WALKING THROUGH THE DOOR: WHAT DOES SUPPORT LOOK LIKE FOR SOMEONE EXITING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION?

Human trafficking and exploitation is the use of force, coercion, deception, and/or abuse of trust, power or authority by one person who benefits from the manipulation of another. Because of this, human trafficking can result in trauma and leave a person with unmet needs.

“Survivors of human trafficking often undergo emotional, psychological, and physical pain, and seek the basic needs of life, including shelter, food, legal assistance, social support, and psychological treatment¹.”

–The Youth Research and Evaluation eXchange (YouthREX)

It can feel difficult to “just leave” a human trafficking situation, because of the factors listed above and because of fear of what comes after exiting. When the decision has been made to exit; however, there are organizations that are ready and available to offer support. Let’s walk through what this process might look like, using Covenant House Vancouver as an example.

Support organizations, like Covenant House Vancouver (<https://www.covenanthousebc.org/>), use a trauma-informed approach² to support youth who are exiting human trafficking and/or exploitation. A trauma-informed approach enables organizations, like Covenant House, to understand that they can’t help a person if that person feels unsafe; so the first step is to meet their basic needs. This could take the form of a safe place to stay and rest, and/or by providing an individual with meals, clothing, showers, and healthcare. Other immediate needs can take the form of access to phones and computers, medical and dental needs, employment support, and legal assistance³. Being heard and understood can also be a need. This can be an opportunity to start a dialogue with someone like a youth worker, social worker or counsellor. When walking through the door of an organization, your immediate needs should be met first, and what defines your immediate needs are yours to determine.

The important thing to remember is that you, as the person asking for support, are always in the driver’s seat. Organizations and services are there to support you and your individual journey. Your journey may not be linear, and that’s okay. You are the expert in your own life and supports and services are there for you. What that support looks like is up to you.

Once your immediate needs are met, there are long-term programs and services available to you, that will help you create the future that you envision. Just like your immediate needs, your long-term needs are defined by you, and may include: counselling; employment; connection to your culture, family, or community; job training; job placement; mental health support; and housing support⁴.

Long-term supports may also include “wrap-around services.” These are services that one agency may not be able to provide on their own, but through their relationships with the community, could be included to better support you. These supports will only be included with your consent. For example, Covenant House Vancouver has a shelter program called the Crisis Program, where you can stay as long as you want, to work through your trauma. The Crisis Program provides a food, clothing, and a safe shelter, along with an array of services. This program can also provide wrap-around supports like medical, dental, and physio, as well as access to mental health professionals and detox facilities. Covenant House Vancouver will always ask for your permission to connect with these community members, before they do, because you are the expert in your own life and know what supports you need.

It’s important to remember that along your journey, your needs may change, and that’s okay. Supports and services are able to change and adapt to your needs, or be put on pause, if you so desire. Once you make a connection to a support, it is there whenever you need it, for however long you need it.

If you take away anything from this article, please remember that regardless of how you identify, the type of support you require, or any services that you access, you are important, you are valued, you are respected, and you can have the kind of life that you wish.

If you are someone wishing to exit human trafficking in Canada, there is a hotline available to you: call 1-833-900-1010, or visit <https://www.canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca/what-is-human-trafficking/#1552391239532-e51b302e-90f6> for more information.

¹<https://youthrex.com/research-summary/working-with-victims-of-human-trafficking/>

²<https://www.covenanthousebc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Trauma-Informed-Practice-Position-Statement.pdf>

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN CANADA

BY SOS SAFETY MAGAZINE

A common misconception is that human trafficking is a distant issue – a problem that only affects third-world countries.

What you may not realize is that human trafficking is a genuine issue in first-world countries such as Canada, too – and it's often first-world citizens perpetuating the crime.

Human trafficking is the fastest growing, and most lucrative criminal offence. It is not to be confused with human smuggling, which is the transportation of exploited individuals.

Human trafficking, on the other hand, is the deliberate control of a person for the means of exploitation. Meaning that women aren't being smuggled to far away, third-world countries – they're being recruited and trafficked in our own back yard.

The problem has become such a massive issue in cities throughout the country that the Edmonton Police Services in Alberta, Canada officially renamed their Vice Unit to the "Human Trafficking and Exploitation Unit."

Victims are hunted by predators online,

in malls, coffee shops and at other social gatherings. Predators can often be personable, charismatic and friendly. And targets often suffer from low self-esteem.

Have we, as Canadians, accepted that human trafficking is a real threat to us?

Have we taken the opportunity to talk to our daughters, friends and sisters about the risks, signs, and dangers of human trafficking?

Or have we turned a blind eye to it?

Over 90% of women being trafficked in Canada are Canadian citizens. The average age for individuals exploited is 13 years old. The statistics are a staggering reminder that the children of our country are not immune to becoming victims of this crime.

The first step to ending human trafficking is preventing it. To prevent it, we have to be aware of it.

Be wary of flashy, charismatic personalities that are quick to cross boundaries.

Have open conversations with the women and children in your life that this is a very real possibility in today's society.

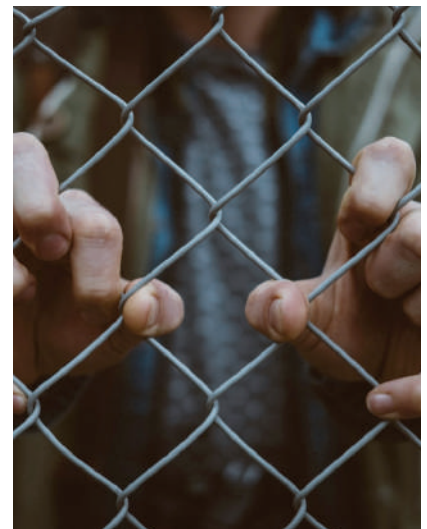
Be mindful of people's lifestyle changes and their financial situations.

It's imperative to preach internet safety to children and teenagers. By opening up online to strangers, they become a prime target for different types of inappropriate conduct.

Knowing the signs of human trafficking is another major component to ridding Canada of it. Organizations have identified different signs of human trafficking. Victims may have odd tattoos (which may be branding tattoos). They may be submissive, anxious, paranoid or nervous. You may notice that they are directly controlled by another person or don't have personal money or resources. Victims may also be malnourished or unaware of their surroundings.

It's important that we come together to abolish "modern-day slavery" and keep our children safe.

In order to do this, we have to acknowledge the facts and find the courage to have uncomfortable conversations. Someone's life – perhaps of someone you know and love – is counting on it.



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HUMAN TRAFFICKERS FINDING TARGETS OVER SOCIAL MEDIA

BY SOS SAFETY MAGAZINE

For many teens, one of their daily habits probably includes opening Instagram. While on the app they might post their own photos or stories, or comment or like other people's posts. This seems like a normal part of anyone's day. At the same time, human traffickers are scrolling through the same app looking for targets.

Instagram is designed for people to connect, whether you're friends or not. If you have a public profile and use hashtags or location tags on your photos, someone will be able to find them by searching the location or hashtags you've used. It can make the app all the more fun; you can meet like-minded people or search a site to see what it looks like before visiting. At the same time, it can make it a dangerous place to be living out your life. Human traffickers use these tools to search for their next victims.

It didn't use to be this easy. A predator would have to find their victim in person at a public place such as a school or a mall. But with the use of social media, traffickers can find victims more easily than ever.

Often enough it begins easily. A person wants to hear that they're smart, unique, or beautiful; that is exactly what these predators will do when communicating with their victim. They'll watch for a person's posts, looking for someone whose weakness they can prey on. When they see that someone is complaining how their parents don't understand, they will swoop in and say that they agree with the target. They will make them empty promises that if they come to them, they will give the target everything they wanted. This tactic is referred to as grooming.

They look for teens and young adults alike that lack confidence or are looking for attention. They'll make an effort to get into their target's life, and then the grooming process starts. It's not always about finding a sad lonely teen, this can happen to the most popular kids. If a teen wants to be a model – for example – they'll promise they can help them. Once they've gained the trust of the target, they'll schedule a pick up for them and make their move. Other traffickers will wait longer. They'll play the "I did this for you card, so you need to do this for me."

This past summer an airlines agent in Sacramento, California was credited with thwarting the plans of an alleged human trafficking scheme. Two girls, aged 15 and 17, came to the airport without any identification to board a flight to New York alone. The airline agent had a bad feeling because of the red flags already stated. She then discovered that the teens only had one-way tickets and that

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The agent then flagged down a deputy who chatted with the girls about their plans for their trip. The girls had met a guy on Instagram named Drey. He asked that they come to New York and take modeling pictures and be in a music video. The two weren't aware that their tickets were only one way. The deputy realized that this could be a possible set up for human trafficking, and when he explained that to the teens they didn't believe him. When authorities contacted "Drey" on Instagram he deleted his account. They believe that he was using a Google phone number which is untrackable.

Predators will often use another tactic called "sextortion". The predator asks for nude photos under the promise that they won't send them to anyone else. It then turns into sextortion when the predator threatens to send the photos to friends or family. It becomes blackmail from there. The trafficker will request more photos from that point on.

Traffickers don't always use Instagram to find their victims. They'll also use Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Kik or ChatRoulette. You might not understand how all of these apps work, but the best option for a parent isn't to become a helicopter parent in hopes of protecting their child from the dangers lurking on social media. Ask your teen questions. Ask them how these apps work and let them show you. Start asking them, and they'll start teaching you. In terms of talking about human trafficking, don't just say it's bad. Make it a topic of the day, show them how easy it is to become trapped in the sex trade.

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CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

How child sex trafficking happens in Alberta and how adults can protect the children they care about

One of the most common misconceptions about child sex trafficking is how it happens. The imagery of children violently taken by strangers never to be seen again is one that has been imprinted into our minds from the time we were young and our parents told us “don’t talk to strangers.” While stranger kidnappings can and do happen, they are rare.

Statistics around missing children in Canada tell us that only 1% of children reported missing are abducted, and of that 1% only a fraction of a percent (0.1%) are abducted by a stranger. Similar statistics reveal that sexual abuse of a child by a stranger is also uncommon. 88% of the time when a child experiences sexual abuse of any kind it is by someone known to the child, like a family member or friend.

The myth of “stranger danger” often distracts from the reality of how children are trafficked in Canada and shifts the focus from the most likely perpetrators onto the unknown. In order to truly build safety for our children, it is important that we are able to talk about how child sex trafficking happens within families and communities.

How Children are Trafficked

Economic and social vulnerability are key factors that make people, including children, especially vulnerable to experiencing trafficking. While anyone can be trafficked, children who have experienced sexual or physical violence, addiction, homelessness, and poverty are at higher risk.

Traffickers may try to befriend the child or youth they intend to exploit; this is made easier by the fact that most traffickers have a pre-existing relationship with the child. Parents and family members may sell children for sex in exchange for drugs, money, or for other personal benefits. Sometimes families feel they have no other choice. They may offer gifts or bribes to convince the child to not talk about their abuse. Traffickers outside of the family may offer gifts, a place to stay, or a shoulder to lean on to convince young people to willingly come to them, or to keep coming back.

Recruitment can happen online through social media sites and open multiplayer games, or in public at places like malls and recreation centers. Over time, the trafficker establishes themselves as someone who can be trusted and relied on, which allows them to slowly start convincing the child to push their personal boundaries. Traffickers rarely use force or physical violence to control their victims, rather coerce them through bribes, threats, and mental and psychological manipulations. In some experiences, sexual abuse is normalized from a very young age. This manipulation is used to make the young person feel guilt, shame, and responsibility for their trafficking, which can prevent them from coming forward.

Being aware of the methods that are used to gradually lure and control children is critical in recognizing and preventing child sexual trafficking. This shift in focus changes how we talk to our children about safety and build safety within their world.

Protecting Our Children

Some of the best actions you can take to keep your children safe are:

- Talking to them about who the safe people are in their life that they can talk to if anything ever makes them feel sad, scared, or uncomfortable. Letting them know that if the first adult they talk to doesn’t believe them, they should keep telling until someone helps them.
- Knowing what your children are doing online and be aware of who their online “friends” are. Talk to them about internet safety and explain that they should not send any personal information or pictures over the internet. If anyone ever asks for pictures or personal information, or sends them anything that makes them scared, or uncomfortable, they should turn off the screen and tell an adult that they trust.
- Giving them opportunities to talk. Children don’t typically bring up scary things on their own, so it takes an outside motivator, like an adult asking them if there is anything they want to talk about.
- Letting them know that you believe them. Children who feel believed in general are more likely to speak up when they feel something is not right.

For more information on human trafficking, visit actalberta.org or follow us on social media @actalberta

Traffickers use the internet as digital hunting fields.

More and more, traffickers are using social media to identify, groom, and recruit victims. Learn the signs, and keep yourself and your loved ones safe online.

Together, we can create an Alberta free of human trafficking.

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A Brief History of the
Papaschase Band – as
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Statement of Claim.

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Tawow, welcome to the official site of the Papaschase Band.

The band is regrouping after being scattered for so many years since the illegal surrender of their reserve and forced transfer to other bands. This work has begun in earnest with the first election in 1999 of Chief and council to provide representation on behalf of all descendants. Since then the Chief and council have filed a civil lawsuit against the Federal Government of Canada on behalf of all descendants over the alleged illegal surrender of reserve land that was located in the present boundaries of south Edmonton.



The Chief and council's mandate is to govern the Papaschase descendants affairs, to defend and advance their treaty rights and legitimate interests of the Papaschase Descendants, and to take all necessary steps to obtain a just settlement of the unlawful surrender of Papaschase IR 136 in 1888. Many descendants have come forward to join our cause but we continue to search for the lost members who have been scattered to the four winds and call them home. Thank you for visiting our site and hope you join us again soon.

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YOUTH HUBS ALBERTA

CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Youth Hubs Alberta – SOS magazine

The Youth Hubs Alberta initiative, is hosted by Canadian Mental Health Association (Alberta), and connects Albertan’s aged 11-24 to community mental health support and wellness resources. Through community integrated youth hubs young people in our province can access peer support, social services, physical and mental health services, primary health care, addiction services, housing, Indigenous resources, and school-based services where they live.

The Right Services at the Right Time

Research shows that youth ages 12-24 are among the most underserved population when it comes to mental health and addictions in Alberta and navigating traditional supports can be difficult. Youth Hubs Alberta helps to break down the barriers and stigma for youth to find the right services at the right time. A community designed hub offers youth a safe space where they can be themselves and find connection with others, while exploring their own unique interests and needs. When you are ready, we can help you find the services that feel right for you – whether that is help with housing, counselling, employment skills, health care or a variety of other community services.

Youth Hubs Alberta aims to empower youth find a path to wellness that suits them best. Participants are welcome to come spend time at their Hub just hanging out, chat with other youth who are facing similar struggles, learn more about supports available in their area or just find a place to truly feel comfortable and welcome.

Connect to Brighter Days

It is estimated that 10 to 20 per cent of Canadian youth are affected by a mental illness or disorder. Youth Hubs Alberta’s community-

based approach allows each Hub to offer resources that best meet the unique social and cultural needs of the people they are serving. Youth help to create the resources available at each Hub and are active in supporting each other through their wellness journeys.

From Our Youth

“Youth Hubs is a space where I can be myself and meet people.” – Community youth member, Youth Hubs Alberta

“Youth Hubs is a place to be with like minded people. It provides a sense of community and family.” - Youth community member, The Bridge Welllness Hub for Youth, Fort Saskatchewan

“I like being part of a group that wants to improve the services offered in my community.” - Community youth member, Youth Hubs Alberta

To find your local Youth Hub or to learn more about us, please visit: youthhubsalberta.cmha.ca.

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LET'S TALK HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BY SOS SAFETY MAGAZINE



It's been a rocky year. Aside from the global pandemic, numerous social issues have been brought to light, bringing people to their knees. For many people, it's fair to say that 2020 has been one of the most painstaking, eye-opening, and overwhelming years that our generation has experienced. The Black Lives Matter movement brought a much-needed awareness to systemic racism, and as riots for racial equality took over the world, news about human sex trafficking hit mainstream media at the drop of a hat.

At first, information regarding Jeffrey Epstein, a convicted sex offender, spread like wildfire. Epstein owned a private island, coined Little Saint James in the United States Virgin Islands, and the alleged horrors of abuse that occurred within the confines of the 70-acre land. Most of Epstein's victims were merely children, and they will spend years suffering from the exploitation he subjected them to, despite his untimely death in 2019, which was deemed a suicide in his jail cell.

The news of Jeffrey Epstein undoubtedly carried a whirlwind of education, awareness, and information regarding human sex trafficking for unknowing (and ignorant) Americans, Canadians, and human citizens, however, the media wasn't done there. Shortly after, a large mainstream online shopping outfitter was accused of purchasing, selling, and exploiting missing children and sex slaves. Though the accusations have not been confirmed or denied, the suggestions have resulted in many people seeking more evidence of human trafficking. A network that was once mainly underground has since become widely known and openly discussed.

Blake Lively, a popular American actress and outspoken activist, took the podium at the Power of Women event held by Variety Magazine to discuss sexual exploitation and child pornography. Her speech, which began with, "I'm here as a momma," was heart wrenching. Lively touched on shocking statistics and the explicit content that these monsters misuse. "The average abuser abuses

between 50 and 100 children in their lifetime,” Lively explained, before following up with, “Between 55 and 90 percent of people viewing it are actually hands-on abusers or will become abusers.”

Despite the best efforts of the abuser at keeping the crime underground, the United States is known for being one of the worst countries for sex trafficking. Children are often sold as sex slaves for a significant profit. Supply and demand have made the numbers skyrocket, and the FBI has had a difficult time uncovering the ring. Abusers have been known to take their victims internationally to better allude officials. According to Fox News, a staggering 199,000 incidents of sex trafficking occur in the United States annually.

For victims, it is a difficult lifestyle to escape once trapped, and the future can look bleak. Families may begin to think their loved ones have been murdered. In an effort to rehabilitate victims, emergency shelters and long-term housing placements are available; However, the road to recovery is a long one, should the opportunity even be awarded to them.

With 2020 shedding light on such an excruciating issue, awareness has allowed the general public to raise their voices about an issue that many of us have thought was a myth, or, at the very least, a foreign issue. Despite some of the population turning a blind eye, it’s happening right under our noses, in our communities. Human trafficking poses a risk to our children, sisters, and friends.

To get involved in the solution and eradication of human trafficking, there are several different organizations you can support, including the Polaris Project, Stop the Traffik, and the Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women.



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