



What is Human Trafficking?

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Some people think human trafficking is an international crime but it is happening right here in Saskatchewan. A human trafficker is “any person, who recruits, transports, transfers, receives, holds, conceals or harbours a person, or exercises control, direction or influence over a person for the purpose of exploiting them”, and this does not necessarily involve the movement of a victim.

Human trafficking is a low risk/high reward activity, and in Canada, it is estimated a trafficker can generate up to \$336,000 per year from a single sex trafficking victim because they can be exploited and sold multiple times.

Trafficking in persons is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights and it is estimated that there are 21 million victims of human trafficking worldwide. In Canada, the estimate is 16,000 with only 1% ever rescued.

Often, people fall victim to human trafficking through a false job offer, a promise of a better life or a romantic relationship, and may be exploited for a variety of reasons, including sex, forced labor or even organ trafficking. Human trafficking is commonly believed to involve the exploitation of foreigners but anyone can be trafficked. In Canada, 93% of the sex trafficking victims are domestic.

Human trafficking is not only happening in large cities, it is also occurring in smaller centres. Although online advertisements show the majority of sex trade workers are providing services in Regina and Saskatoon, there has been an increase in communities such as Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Weyburn, Swift Current, Estevan and North Battleford.

Despite the rising number of reported incidents, human trafficking remains largely underreported and unnoticed, due in part to its deceptive nature. In fact, hotels and motels are often the frontlines of human trafficking. Specifically, human traffickers use hotel and motel rooms to set up encounters between victims of sex and their purchasers.

The hotel industry can play an important role in putting an end to human trafficking. In collaboration with the SHHA a 2020 initiative is being developed to raise awareness of human trafficking and institute processes and training programs that help employees recognize the signs and initiate appropriate responses.

For information online visit <https://www.canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca/>The Human Trafficking Hotline: toll free. 1-833-900-1010