

# Responding to human trafficking: towards integrated action! SYMPOSIUM

April 11th and 12th, 2013 Montreal



## *Human Trafficking in BC and the Evolution of the BC Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons*

Ministry of Justice

Victor Porter



OCTIP 2013

# Who we are



Prevent



Respond



Restore





# Community Safety and Crime Prevention

***Improving the safety of communities and assisting  
victims of violence***

through

**direct services, funding service providers,  
developing policy, and providing expert advice**

# The Story of Human Trafficking in BC



1999

3 Boats from China

600 people

134 children

MCFD creates  
Migrant Services Team



# And then...Ng Case

2005

1st human trafficking case  
in Canada

Involved two women  
from China, trafficked for  
sexual exploitation in BC





So...

New Human Trafficking  
Offences in 2005



RCMP E Division



**Human Trafficking Initiative**

Ministry of Public Safety

Solicitor General

# BC's Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons

**Opened in July 2007**

**Coordination** of BC's strategy  
to address human  
trafficking:

- sexual exploitation
- labour trafficking
- domestic servitude





# Mandate of OCTIP

- Support communities to build local capacity to address HT
- Raise awareness and provide training and education
- Identify gaps and barriers in services, policy, and legislation
- Contribute to national and international efforts





# Early Strategy - Protection

## Identify, protect and coordinate services

- Work with partners (service providers, law enforcement) on individual cases
- Develop and distribute outreach materials:
  - “*We can help*” and “*Pocket Cards*” translated into 14 languages
- Establish the 1 888 help line
- Over 175 cases to date

# Using a Human Rights Approach





# Early Strategy - Awareness

- Identify willing partners in the community
- Raise the awareness of British Columbians
- “Staying Current” electronic newsletter 600 + subscribers
- Presentations to service providers, first responders, teachers, students, researchers, labour unions, faith based communities, and the general public
- Reached over 20,000 British Columbians to date



# Challenges

- Complex crime
- Multiple partners, multiple jurisdictions
- Diversity of perspectives
- Lack of awareness
- Statistics
- Human Smuggling = Trafficking Misconception
- Legislation



# On-Line Training

## *Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune*

### **OCTIP created Canada's first Online Training Course**

Funded by Public Safety Canada

- Advisory Committee, 60 + organizations
- Free, open-access in French and English
- Learn to recognize, protect and assist a person who may have been trafficked
- Update in progress, to be completed by March 2014

[www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octip/training.htm](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octip/training.htm)

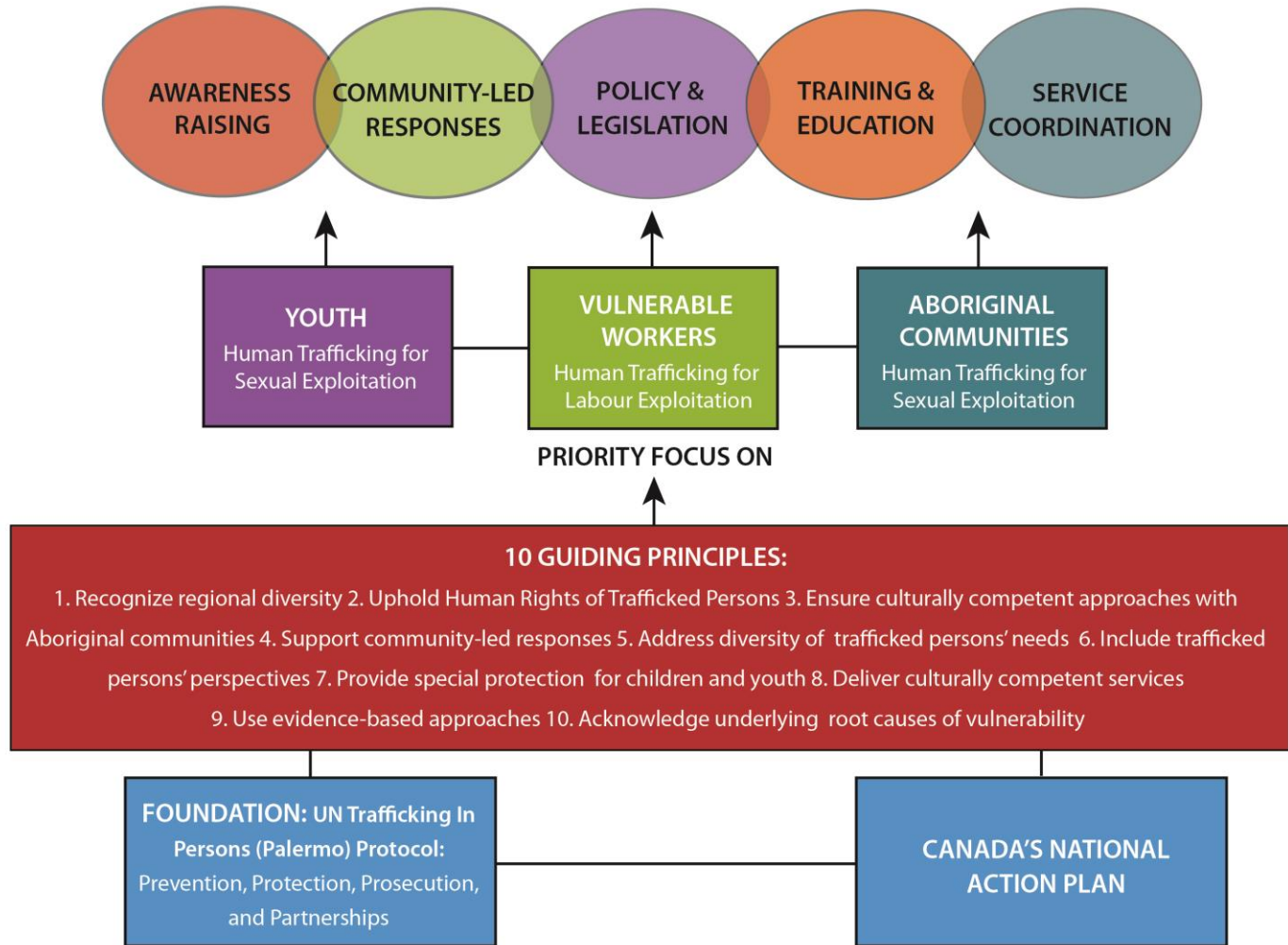


# British Columbia's Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking

- Consultations in Vancouver, Victoria and Prince George
- 130 participants
- Launched March 15, 2013
- Defines OCTIP's 10 Guiding Principles
- Identifies 3 Priority Focus Populations
- Establishes 5 Action Areas
- Sets immediate and long term actions



## BC Action Plan To Combat Human Trafficking 2013-2016





# OCTIP's Evolution

- Started as an independent office
- Integrated now with the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch, Ministry of Justice
- Less involved in front line support as services providers are more ready to respond
- 1-888 # connects to VictimLink
- Support service providers with guidance and troubleshooting in individual cases
- Acts as liaison amongst and between partners

# Crime Prevention and Remediation Grants Civil Forfeiture Office

Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation Stream

2012-13 funding for 25  
initiatives at \$588,500.00

2013-14 funding for  
7 initiatives at \$ 165,400.00





# Current Initiatives

- Implementation of the BC Action Plan
- Update of the On-line Training Course
- “Train the Trainer” sessions in Northern and rural BC
- Staying Current, Pocket Cards
- National Coordination
- Supporting community and police agencies on cases



# How can OCTIP help your community?

- Support local efforts to prevent human trafficking/sexual exploitation
- Take online training – free and open access (<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octip/training.htm>)
- Pocket card distribution; VictimLINK
- Staying Current
- Victim Services/Violence Against Women/CVAP



# What can we do?

## **BC's Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons (OCTIP)**

Office: 604-660-5199 Email: [octip@gov.bc.ca](mailto:octip@gov.bc.ca)

**Toll free 24 hours: 1-888-712-7974 (Anywhere in BC)**

## **The RCMP Human Trafficking Coordinator**

[Jassy.Bindra@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:Jassy.Bindra@rcmp-grc.gc.ca)

[pacifichumantraffickingcoordinator@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:pacifichumantraffickingcoordinator@rcmp-grc.gc.ca)

## **Citizenship and Immigration Canada (TRP)**

1-888-242-2100

## **Ministry of Children and Family Development**

After Hours Phone: 250-310-1234





# Merci

BC's Office to Combat  
Trafficking in Persons

Email: [octip@gov.bc.ca](mailto:octip@gov.bc.ca)

[www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octip](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octip)

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**Some people are very  
attached to their work.  
Human Trafficking. Don't ignore it.**

*Sanila*