

July 2019

WHAT IS IT

Bluntly, it is slave labour involving the illegal movement and utilization of people for labour or sex, without their consent. It is a criminal offence under the *Criminal Code* and the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.

STATISTICS

Like sexual harassment and sexual violence cases, this is largely unreported.

Statistics Canada¹ using police reports from 2009-2016:

Canada:

- 95% of the 865 human trafficking victims were women.
- 72% of the victims under 25 years, with 26% of these less than 18 years old.
- Males accused in 81% of the cases; 80% of the accused between 18 and 34.

Ontario:

- Two-thirds (66%) of the cases were reported in Ontario
- Toronto had 272 cases (25% of the national). Ottawa was next with 122 cases (11% of the national). Cities like Calgary and Edmonton had only 3% each.
- 70% of all cross-border trafficking incidents in Canada over the eight-year period were in Ontario, accounting for 34% of all Canadian cases

RCMP²:

Between 2005 and May 2019, the RCMP identified **581** cases where human trafficking specific charges were laid.

- 559 (95%) are domestic (primarily sexual exploitation), that is the traffickers were Canadian, or a permanent resident; 22 were international (primarily for forced labour)
- 443 victims were involved
- 227 successfully resulted in convictions

WHAT'S HAPPENING

- Ontario has a **Strategy to End Human Trafficking**, including an Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office within the Community Services Division of the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.
<https://www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/en/mcscs/programs/humanTrafficking/index.aspx#facts>
- **Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock** has worked on this file for many years <https://www.lauriescottmpp.com/hst>
- Canada has a **National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking**, and has ratified the United Nations *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children* in 2002.
<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/ntnl-ctn-pln-cmbt/index-en.aspx>

95% of the human trafficking victims in Canada were women.

Two-thirds of the cases in Canada were in Ontario.

Most of the victims were Canadian or permanent residents.

¹ Dyna Ibrahim, *Trafficking in persons in Canada*, 2016, June 27, 2018, Statistics Canada
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-005-x/2018001/article/54979-eng.htm>

² RCMP Summary of human trafficking convictions, May 2019
<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ht-tp/index-eng.htm>

- **Royal Canadian Mounted Police Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre** located in Ottawa, including a National Hotline 1-855-850-4640 for reporting human trafficking <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ht-tp/index-eng.htm>
- **Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline** 1-833-900-1010 A first of its kind in Canada, the Hotline is a multi-lingual and confidential service that is operational 24/7, 365 days a year. (<https://www.canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca/>)
- The **Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking (CCEHT)**, a non-government organization, launched the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline on May 29, 2019. <https://www.canadiancentretoendhumantrafficking.ca/>

CONCERNS

- “Don't mix up sex work and sex trafficking, advocates for workers say” <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/london-ontario-safe-space-sex-work-not-human-trafficking-1.4984323>
- “Sex worker rights: Hysteria, surveillance and threats to fundamental freedoms” <https://theconversation.com/sex-worker-rights-hysteria-surveillance-and-threats-to-fundamental-freedoms-120943>

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Connect with some of these organizations, and your local sexual assault centre:

- **Joy Smith Foundation** <http://www.joysmithfoundation.com/> works to ensure that every Canadian is safe from forced labour or sex trafficking through education, and funding front-line organizations that rescue and rehabilitate victims.
- **Courage for Freedom** <https://courageforfreedom.org/> educates, trains, and certifies front-line staff and community service providers, as well as bringing awareness to the community.
- **BPW Ontario** has joined with Courage for Freedom to bring awareness about the issue of human trafficking, especially along the 400 highways. <https://bpwontario.com/advocacy/anti-human-sex-trafficking-awareness.html>
- **Free Them** <https://www.freethem.ca/> believes that working together we can end slavery-human trafficking in our lifetime by educating the public on slavery that exists today in Canada and around the world, by producing campaigns, and providing tools that people can use.
- **Voice Found** <http://voicefound.ca/> “Over 90% of youth who are sex trafficked have been abused as children. We are committed to fighting both threats.”

OTHER RESOURCES

- Canadian Women’s Foundation, “No More” Ending Sex-Trafficking in Canada, Report of the National Task Force on Sex Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada, Fall 2014 https://www.canadianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/CWF-TraffickingReport-Auto-1_0.pdf
- Sydney Loney, *This Woman Was Trafficked at a Club When She Was 19—And It Could Happen to *Anyone**, One woman’s story about what it’s like to be sold for sex in Canada, and why she’s far from the only one, FLARE magazine, Dec.27, 2018 <https://www.flare.com/news/reality-of-human-trafficking/>