

Q&A Summary

- 1. I am developing training specific to child protection social workers who may have to work with victims of trafficking between the ages of 9-18. Could you send me in the right direction for where to get information/resources on how to deal with trafficking victims while working in child protection?**

Answer:

Yes. Many organizations working in anti-trafficking have developed age-appropriate educational materials to help children and youth understand safety, boundaries, and online risks — similar to what exists for anti-bullying, suicide prevention, and safe-internet-use programs.

One example is the **Ally Global Foundation** (ally.org), an organization we work with in Alberta. They've created resources that are accessible for younger audiences and particularly relevant for Indigenous communities. Their materials are not the only option, but they're a strong example of the kind of supportive, age-appropriate guides available to help communities engage in these important conversations.

- 2. What areas of labour trafficking have been identified?**

Answer:

Labour trafficking in Canada is most often found among people who are here legally through the Temporary Foreign Worker Program. Many come seeking better opportunities for themselves and their families, but they hold fewer rights and protections than other workers in Canada.

Labour exploitation and labour trafficking are concentrated in sectors that rely heavily on low-wage, low-skill labour, including agriculture, manufacturing, fisheries, home care, and some food-processing roles. These are jobs with significant labour shortages, which increases reliance on temporary foreign workers.

Because these workers have restricted mobility and cannot easily change employers, asserting their rights can put them at risk of losing status or being deported. This creates systemic vulnerability and allows exploitation to persist by taking advantage of limited opportunities and the desire for a better life.

- 3. Has the current situation in the U.S., including increased ICE enforcement and raids, led to an increase in human trafficking cases in Canada—particularly as undocumented individuals may be seeking to enter Canada as a form of escape?**

Answer:

I can't speak to specific numbers or whether cases have increased. What I can say is that Canada is seeing a rise in anti-immigrant rhetoric, with issues like housing and employment increasingly blamed on migrants. This environment is influencing policy changes that restrict rights, limit pathways to status, and reduce people's ability to support themselves.

As more individuals fall out of status — including international students affected by recent policy shifts — they are pushed into more precarious situations and may rely on cash-only work to survive. That increased precarity heightens vulnerability to exploitation.

Any potential rise in trafficking risks cannot be attributed solely to events in the United States. Canadian policy decisions, shaped in part by growing anti-immigrant sentiment, play a significant role in creating vulnerability.

4. What would be the common areas that sex and labour trafficking intersect?

Answer:

We see this in cases of domestic servitude, where someone may be forced to work in a home around the clock—often as a caregiver—and may also be subjected to sexual exploitation.

5. What are the stats in Canada by age category, province, city, rural etc.?

Answer:

Please refer to the [Human Trafficking Trends in Canada 2019–2024 Report](#) released by the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking.

6. What is being done to support First Nations women? How can we support them as citizens?

Answer:

What's being done:

In Canada, Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people experience disproportionately high rates of violence and exploitation, which has led to several national, coordinated responses:

- **National Action Plan to End Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People (2021):**
A federal, provincial, territorial, and Indigenous-led framework focused on prevention, culturally appropriate supports, survivor services, and systemic change.
(Government of Canada – Crown-Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs Canada)
- **The Federal Pathway (in response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls):**
Canada's response to the Inquiry's Calls for Justice, which identify root causes such as colonialism, systemic racism, and gaps in services, and call for long-term structural change across justice, health, housing, and social systems.
- **Indigenous-led organizations and services:**
Many supports are delivered by Indigenous organizations that provide culturally grounded, trauma-informed care, including services related to violence prevention, human trafficking, healing, and advocacy (e.g., Ontario Native Women's Association and other regional organizations).

How citizens can help:

- **Learn and acknowledge the realities:**
Take time to understand the findings of the National Inquiry and why Indigenous women face heightened risk.

- **Support Indigenous-led organizations:**
Donate to, volunteer with, or amplify organizations led by Indigenous women that provide direct services and prevention programs.
- **Advocate for implementation, not just awareness:**
Encourage governments to fully fund and implement the Inquiry's *Calls for Justice* and the National Action Plan — these are ongoing commitments, not completed work.
- **Listen and amplify, rather than speak over:**
Centre Indigenous voices and leadership in conversations, education, and community initiatives.
- **Promote culturally safe services locally:**
Advocate in your community for trauma-informed, culturally appropriate services in schools, shelters, healthcare, and justice systems.