

Please note: This material is about Sex trafficking and may be difficult to discuss or triggering. Please contact Canada's confidential Human Trafficking Hotline, with any sex trafficking concerns at 1-833-900-1010 (available 24/7 and available in several languages to receive support)

Sex trafficking is a form of sexual exploitation and is a crime under the Criminal Code of Canada. It can include recruiting, harbouring, transporting, obtaining, or providing a person for the purpose of sex. It involves the use of force, physical or psychological coercion or deception

Most individuals who are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation are women and girls, but all people may be targeted. For additional information please see Ministry of Education [Policy Program Memorandum 166](#).



PPM 166



POSSIBLE SIGNS THAT A CHILD IS BEING TRAFFICKED



Drop in grades and/or extended absences from school



Withdrawal from social activities



A noticeable change in behaviour (i.e., Is tense/hyper vigilant, nervous or anxious)



Change in attire/ expensive clothing



Change in lingo i.e. 'telly time' or 'being in the game'



Carries one or more cell phones with blocked/private phone numbers



Makes references to boyfriend (often older) as "daddy" or self as "mama" or "baby"



increased drug/alcohol use

Roles

Due to the daily contact with students, school staff are well placed to educate on prevention, promote healthy relationships, notice changes of behaviour and connect students with caring adults. Lakehead District School Board has developed a protocol that includes awareness training for staff to identify and support students that may be being lured for sex trafficking and to help students disclose that they have been or are being trafficked. Schools play an important role to help combat child sexual exploitation and, in particular, sex trafficking. The Anti-Sex Trafficking protocol supports schools taking a key role in fostering a safe and caring climate for students.

Schools:

- serve as an important partner in identifying, responding to and preventing sex trafficking, including connecting students to resources
- help to educate on prevention and promote healthy relationships, notice troubling changes in behaviour, and connect with students as caring adults
- promote a sense of belonging, increase protective factors, help to reduce risk factors associated with sex trafficking and support early intervention

Parents and Caregivers can:

- discuss health and non healthy relationships with your child
- listen to your child about their relationships
- be aware when a child is being secretive and hiding contacts
- regularly check in on your child's technology use
- set limits on technology
- be aware and educate yourself and child about sex trafficking
- know where to turn if you have concerns your child is being lured
- Help your child identify safe and trusted adults that they can talk to

How do I protect my child from risks presented online

- Cyber-safety is about setting clear expectations with your child around online use. Students need to be made aware of the risks of certain apps and how to protect themselves from unwanted contact, as well, as who to turn to when they suspect they may be at risk.
- Families and schools are encouraged to continue to work together to educate students about both the positive and negative potentials of the internet, including the harmful effects of violent sexually explicit images.
- Popular social media platforms (e.g. Instagram, WhatsApp, Facebook, TikTok, Snapchat, POF, sugar daddy websites) are new ways traffickers target their victims.

How to Support your Child who has Disclosed Information

Be a supportive listener by:

- listening to your child without judgement or blame.
- trying to understand some of the choices your child makes and the pressures they are experiencing, even if you don't understand them.
- being aware of and softening your body language.
- using their language e.g. if they say "boyfriend," use this term.
- letting them take the lead in sharing, avoid leading the conversation.
- contact your child's school administrator with your concerns.
- look for organizations in your community that have outreach programs.
- call the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-833 900-1010
- immediate risk call 911

RESOURCES:



If you are concerned that your child might be at risk, contact your school's administrator. However, for 24/7 support please call the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-833-900-1010 or for immediate risk 911.

For additional parent/caregiver resources please go to our board's Parents/Guardian page <https://www.lakeheadschoools.ca/staff-resources/>

