

Sent: June 5, 2021 7:48 AM

To: prrd dc <prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca>

Subject: Kamloops and Update on Human Sex Trafficking in BC and How to Stop it

Dear Chair Brad Sperling and Directors of Peace River Regional District,

The Kamloops Residential School tragedy is horrific. It exemplifies the intergenerational trauma of the Indigenous peoples.

In the meantime, 54% involved in the sex industry are Indigenous women and children. Higher numbers in urban centres. While the average age of recruitment into the sex industry is 13 years old (10-12 years old in Vancouver and Toronto), it is much younger for Indigenous girls. Indigenous women and girls are severely over-represented in the sex industry. This is the worst form of systemic racism in our country and history. It must stop.

The normalization, commercialization, institutionalization (similar to the Netherlands, Germany, Thailand and Nevada) of the sex industry must not happen in Canada. First casualties would be Indigenous women and girls (followed by new migrants).

I have been raising awareness about this issue for the last 3 months to City Councils and Regional Districts in BC; to almost 100 communities in BC. Thank you for the opportunity. I will continue with presentations in the Fall.

FOR EDUCATION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION:

Conference: The National Coalition on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) out of Washington, DC will be running a 4 day free virtual conference on July 20-24. CESE Summit 2021- Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation Online Global Summit. Global experts will be presenting. It is the largest global conference of its kind. Please attend if you can.

Prevention Education Programs:

Children of the Street (PLEA)

Fraser Health Forensic Nursing course

SexualExploitationEducation by Tiana Sharifi

OCTIP- Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons online course

BRAVE Prevention Education by Kelly Schuler (National)

ROOTS of Character Program by Gloria Garvie (Vancouver Island)

Recent Documentaries:

Fight for the Soul of Seattle- the impact of homelessness, drug use, prostitution, human trafficking on a city

Childhood 2.0- impact of Social Media on today's youth

ASK: please write the Provincial Premier and Solicitor General that this crime is a priority in BC and there needs to be considerable funding/training for Provincial law enforcement and a Provincial Awareness Campaign. BC needs an inter-agency Human Sex Trafficking Task Force similar to what is available for drugs and gangs.

Please contact me if you need more information.

Sincerely,

Cathy Peters

BC anti-human trafficking educator, speaker, advocate
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