

**Ministry of Children,
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March 6, 2020

Dear Partner:

Human trafficking is one of the fastest-growing crimes worldwide, with nearly two-thirds of police-reported cases in Canada taking place in Ontario. Every day, in communities across our province, criminals are preying on our children and youth for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

The unchecked growth of this crime is unacceptable. There is no place in this province for a crime that robs women and young girls of their freedom, their dignity and their future.

That is why today, our government announced a new, five-year strategy to combat human trafficking and child sexual exploitation across the province. This strategy is a major step forward in Ontario's fight against human trafficking.

Ontario's new Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy is a proactive, comprehensive action plan focused on four key areas.

- **Raising awareness** by providing multi-sector training and enhanced public education – including a new, province-wide marketing campaign – to ensure children, youth, parents, and all Ontarians know what human trafficking is, how to recognize the signs, and where to get help.
- **Protecting victims and intervening early** by focusing on prevention measures to support children and youth, leveraging key partners, such as police and child protection services as part of new specialized intervention teams, and establishing dedicated, licensed residences to serve victims, including those under age 16.

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- **Supporting survivors** by investing new funding in community-based supports and Indigenous-led initiatives to make more services available for survivors across the province and enhancing victim services to assist survivors throughout the court process.
- **Holding offenders accountable** by enhancing specialized Crown prosecution capacity, strengthening intelligence gathering in the correctional system, and building law enforcement capacity. This includes support to help police services combat human trafficking through a coordinated approach and increasing dedicated policing by expanding the Ontario Provincial Police Child Sexual Exploitation Unit.

The strategy reflects valuable input from survivors of human trafficking, Indigenous communities and organizations, law enforcement and frontline service providers. More detail can be found in today's [news release](#) and at Ontario.ca/humantrafficking.

Yesterday, we also announced that our government is providing a total of \$2 million in additional annualized funding for sexual assault centres across Ontario, to support the important work they are doing for victims and survivors of sexual assault and human trafficking.

We value your contribution as a partner in the fight against human trafficking and we want to take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to working with you to make a real impact in supporting survivors and stopping this horrific crime.

Sincerely,



Jill Dunlop
Associate Minister of Children
and Women's Issues



Sylvia Jones
Solicitor General