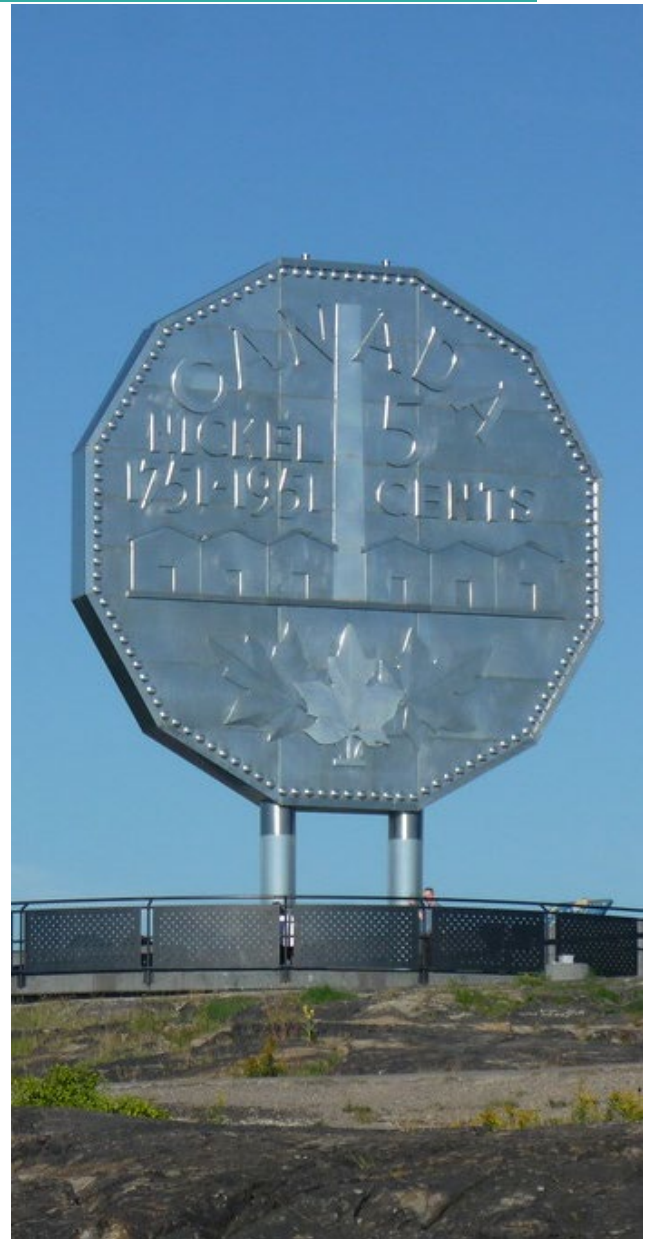


**Brief Submission to the  
Standing Committee on the Status  
of Women**

**Human Trafficking of Women,  
Girls and Gender Diverse People**

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**MAY 4 2023**

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**Sudbury and Area Victim Services  
Authored by: Tiffany Pyoli York**



**STOP  
HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING**

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## Standing Committee on the Status of Women

### **Human Trafficking in Women, Girls and Gender Diverse People**

Sudbury & Area Victim Services (SAVS) is a community based non-profit organization providing free and confidential assistance to victims of crime and sudden tragedy. SAVS provides immediate crisis response, intervention, and prevention services which are responsive to the needs of individuals, families and communities affected by crime and tragic circumstances, including but not limited to Human Trafficking.

SAVS is a non-government agency working in partnership with police, fire, EMS and other community agencies to serve over 200 000 people within our 12 000 square kilometer catchment area. This includes urban, suburban and rural areas. Our partnerships are built around ensuring that victims have access to the most appropriate services with dignity, respect, excellence, and partnership.

Human Trafficking is a lucrative business that is thriving in Sudbury due to the exploitation and abuse of women, girls and gender diverse people. Sudbury has been identified as a hub for Human Trafficking as the intersection of highways 11,17,69 and 144 allow Traffickers the opportunity to exploit this unique geography to their advantage while transporting victims to surrounding communities on what is commonly referred to as a circuit.

Through provincial funding Sudbury and Area Victim Services has partnered with the Sudbury Women's Centre to chair the Greater Sudbury Anti Human Trafficking Coalition. In it's first year, the Coalition has achieved it's goal of the creation of a Pathways document for agency navigation of Human Trafficking supports in Sudbury.

Sudbury and Area Victim Services has applied for provincial funding to support a legal clinic, survivor wellness retreat, and HT services Navigator, through identified needs and service gaps in our community.

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The Anti Sex Trafficking Protocol through the four Sudbury school boards was collaboratively created to deliver current evidence-based education including prevention, support and rehabilitative and reintegration services to all students within Sudbury and surrounding areas. The hope is to deliver the same supports and services to every student, regardless of the school board that they attend. With support from the French Catholic, English Catholic, French Public and English Public Schools Boards, this vision has become a reality.

***“Sudbury is a hub for Human Trafficking due to it’s unique geographical position”***

*Greater Sudbury Police Service Human Trafficking  
Det. Const. Stephane Brouillette*

Although the efforts of Sudbury and Area Victim Services have been successful thus far, we would be remiss in thinking that enough has been done. Human Trafficking is still a growing criminal enterprise despite the best efforts being made.

Sudbury and Area Victim Services recommends- Longer sentencing for Traffickers that are convicted.

Sudbury and Area Victim Services recommends- Diversion for victims and survivors who are forced and coerced in to committing crime as a means of survival while being trafficked.

Sudbury and Area Victim Services recommends- Continued and bolstered supports and services for victims and survivors of Human Trafficking including but not limited to the initial exiting from the Trafficking situation but also in the years following to include court support during the potential trials, but also at the point of the Traffickers release from incarceration.

Sudbury and Area Victim Services recommends- National funding for all School Boards to include mandatory Anti-Sex Trafficking curriculum for all students between grades 7-12.

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Sudbury and Area Victim Services recommends- National funding for research on gender diverse populations and the unique challenges that they face.

Sudbury and Area Victim Services recommends-Preventative measures such as empowerment programming, preventative education and life skills programming.

Sudbury and Area Victim Services recommends- National access to online resources for parents and caregivers in regard to social media, luring and grooming and human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

As the Anti Human Trafficking Coordinator for Sudbury and Area Victim Services and the Chair of the Greater Sudbury Anti Human Trafficking Coalition, it is my hope that the words that victims and survivors have shared with me will make it to the changemakers of Canada, that Human Trafficking will eventually be an ugly memory of the past and that women, girls, and gender diverse people will be free from the threat of Human Trafficking.