



PCRS
Thriving, healthy communities

MARCH 2021

PREVENTING THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN THE LOWER MAINLAND

TOOLKIT FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS, PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS





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INTRODUCTION

This toolkit has been created by the Stop Exploiting Youth (SEY) team at Pacific Community Resources Society (PCRS) in response to the Stop the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth Awareness Week; occurring from March 8, 2021 to March 14, 2021.

Every March, British Columbia proclaims “Stop The Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth Awareness Week” to raise awareness about sexual exploitation and human trafficking in the province. This week recognizes the importance of supporting communities to develop prevention, education, enforcement, and intervention strategies to address the sexual exploitation of children and youth.

Fuchsia-coloured ribbons symbolize efforts in preventing the sexual exploitation of children and youth because it is a combination of red, for red-light districts, and purple, the provincial colour for violence prevention. Please wear a fuchsia ribbon to help raise awareness of the sexual exploitation of children and youth during the week of March 8, 2021.

Due to the illicit nature of exploitation, it is difficult to quantify or measure the number of children and youth who are affected by this in the Lower mainland. There is little data available regarding the local landscape and how many young people are impacted by exploitation and trafficking.

Our hope is that this toolkit provides education to equip parents, caregivers, guardians, and service providers with current trends and tools needed to recognize and prevent sexual exploitation in the Lower Mainland.



Statement from the SEY Team

This year has presented a unique set of challenges and the SEY team has noticed a significant shift to exploitation occurring in online settings. As we entered into the COVID-19 Pandemic young people had to shift their education from in-person to online, as well as their ways to connect with others. Young people, who historically would actively engage with support staff in face to face interactions, are now increasingly more difficult to connect with as they have found new friendships through online platforms. As more young people access their social activities virtually, exploiters have taken advantage of the situation and now have access to a younger age group which increases the risks and vulnerabilities of the young people in our communities.

It has become integral for us as Youth Outreach Workers to become more flexible in an online world and remain aware of the language, applications, and websites that young people are accessing. Through this toolkit, we aim to educate you in hopes of creating awareness in our communities.





EDUCATION & AWARENESS

What is Sexual Exploitation?

Sexual exploitation is the sexual abuse of a child or youth, under the age of 18 years old, through the exchange of sexual acts or favours for drugs & alcohol, a place to stay, rides, clothing, food, money, and more.



What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation, harbouring and/or exercising control, direction or influence over the movements of a person in order to exploit that person typically through sexual exploitation.



How to Recognize Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking?

Sexual exploitation and human trafficking are preventable and recognizable with the proper information. Some signs of exploitation include, but are not limited to: a change in their regular friend group, getting their nails, hair, and makeup done, hanging out with older people, wearing expensive clothing/ items, and engaging in drug and alcohol use with no means to afford them. Youth are often invited by a friend (whom they trust) to attend parties with free alcohol and drugs and have an understanding that they do not have to pay anyone back for what they use or consume.

Another indicator of exploitation is an unhealthy relationship with their partner. The relationship can be unstable as they are regularly breaking up and getting back together, it can be toxic, which can be expressed through physical, mental, verbal, and emotional violence or abuse. They may show fear towards their partner or fear of their partner leaving them. Sexual exploitation and human trafficking can happen to any gender orientation, race, age, or socioeconomic background. The individual may isolate themselves from their regular friend group, start to have less interest in an activity or hobby that they were once passionate about. They may express that they owe someone money and need to pay it back immediately but will not disclose how the debt was accumulated.



Methods of Recruitment

Recruitment by definition, is the act of selecting and enlisting new victims to be exploited. This process is selective and carefully planned by exploiters based on their victim's vulnerabilities.



Recruitment can happen anywhere but the most common method of recruitment is through social media apps such as Facebook, Snapchat, and Instagram; as well as dating apps that are intended for adults. Other areas of recruitment are malls, bus loops, public transit, local food establishments that offer free wifi, and through friends that have already been recruited.



Grooming

Similar to gang life, exploiters will use grooming tactics such as showering the individual with expensive gifts, offering to get their hair, nails, eyelashes, and makeup done, and promising unconditional love.

They often target vulnerable young people who have multiple barriers, unhealthy relationships with their family, and who seek love and attention. Exploiters form friendships or intimate relationships to manipulate the individual and gain their trust, love, and respect. Exploiters will promise a lifestyle of expensive items, protection, friends who care for and love them, drugs and alcohol as well as a place to stay with no rules.

Exploiters also enlist young people to recruit their friends. They invite their friends to parties where drugs and alcohol are offered for free. Exploiters typically tell the young person that they do not have to pay them back for food, drugs & alcohol, or a place to stay but over time the exploiter will become aggressive and violent, requesting money from them. They may also offer the youth money in return for sex or sexual favors.





Stages of Grooming

Exploiters target young people who have some noticeable vulnerability such as emotional insecurity, low self-confidence, or economic hardship.

Gaining trust and information about the young person is key. This can be done through casual conversations with the young person or with their caregiver(s). Exploiters often mix well with other adults.

The information gained allows the exploiter to fulfill a need in the young person's life, making them dependent on them by buying gifts, being a friend, beginning a love relationship, or buying drugs and alcohol for them.

The exploiter creates times to be alone with the young person. The exploiter will also begin to have a major role in the young person's life and attempt to distance them from their friends and family.

The exploiter will begin claiming that the money spent on the young person needs to be repaid. In most cases, the trafficker demands sex as a payment.

In many cases, the exploiter maintains control of the young person through threats, violence, fear, and/or blackmail.

Selective tactics are used to prepare a young person for exploitation. This process can take days, weeks, months, or even years and can happen online and in person. The exploiter uses this time to develop a relationship with the young person to gain their trust and break down their boundaries.



Prevention

This following section will provide service providers, parents and caregivers with an overview on preventative measures that can be taken against the sexual exploitation of young people.

It will also identify ways in which helpers can engage in conversations with young people in regards to healthy relationships, consent, harm reduction and online safety. These preventative measures are starting points to empower young people to be informed about sexual exploitation.





How to Talk to Youth about Relationships

Young people learn about relationships through their environments. They can learn healthy and unhealthy behaviors and traits from parents, caregivers, siblings, and/or peers. Educating them on what a healthy and unhealthy relationship looks like helps to ensure that the young person will be able to make educated decisions regarding their relationship choices. Young people are continually being influenced by different forms of social media, music, movies, and TV content that is easily accessible; it is crucial to create a dialogue on the negative behaviors that are being portrayed.

1. Create a space where the young person can safely join in on a conversation about relationships.
2. Let the young person define what they see as a healthy relationship. Share your perspective without judgement.
3. Discuss expectations that partners can have in a relationship.
4. Explore how the young person establishes boundaries in their relationships.
5. Do not put judgement on the young person's perspective. Validate what they share. If you deem some of the ideas to be unhealthy or abusive, ask for clarification and then share a resource i.e. www.joinonelove.org to create a conversation around unhealthy relationships.
6. Be patient and mindful that the first time this conversation may be awkward.
7. Let the young person lead the conversation. Leave it for another day if they are no longer wanting to talk about it.

Consent

According to the Criminal Code of Canada, the legal age of consent to sexual activity is 16 years old. The Criminal Code of Canada also prohibits any sexual activity between an adult in a position of trust and authority such as a teacher, parent, supervisor, or religious leader under the age of 18. It is important to have open conversations regarding consent and to know what is and what is not consent.

Here are a few things to share with young people when it comes to consent:

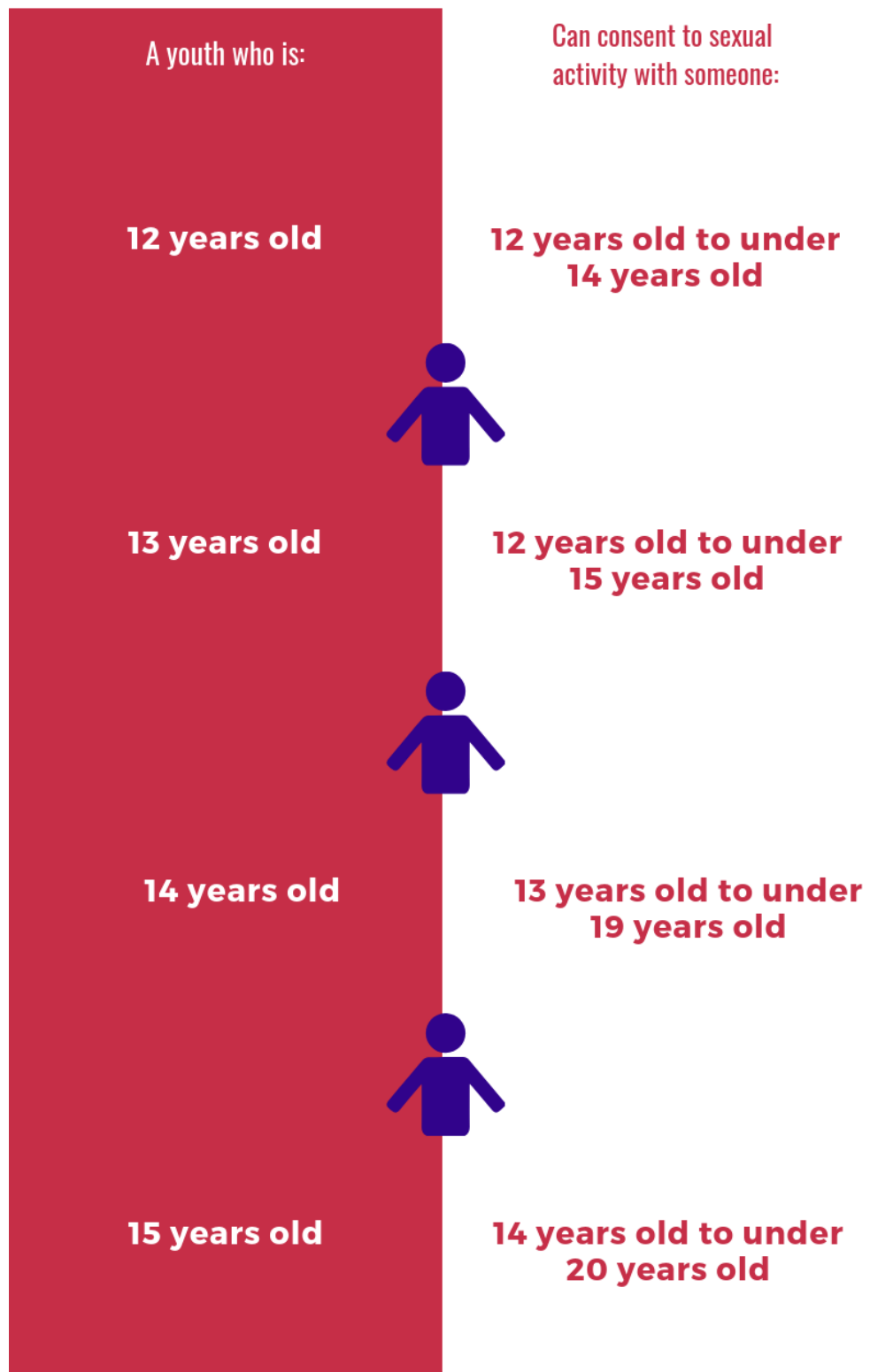
- No one can consent to sexual activities while intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- It is illegal for any person to sexually exploit another person under the age of 18.
- If at any time someone says NO then the sexual activity is non-consensual.
- If your partner says no: respect and accepts their answer. Be sure to never guilt or coerce someone when it comes to intimacy.
- If your partner is unsure: do not push for more than they are ready for. Ask them what they would like to do and what they are comfortable with.
- If your partner says yes: go ahead; continual check-ins are essential to ensure they are enjoying themselves and are comfortable.

AGE OF CONSENT TO SEXUAL ACTIVITY

THE AGE OF CONSENT IS THE AGE AT WHICH A YOUNG PERSON CAN LEGALLY AGREE TO SEXUAL ACTIVITY.

IN CANADA, THE AGE OF CONSENT IS 16 YEARS OLD. HOWEVER, THERE ARE CLOSE IN AGE EXCEPTIONS

*If a person is in the position of authority or trust, a person under the age of 18 can not consent to sexual activity





Empowerment and Connection

As service providers, parents or caregivers it is important to support young people in building positive connections in the community through youth groups, youth outreach workers, mentors, or counsellors. When young people are connected to positive role models they are given an opportunity to see things differently and learn new perspectives.



Young people that have been exploited or are at risk of being exploited need extra support through empowerment and non-judgmental connections. Many youth hubs and recreation centers across the Lower Mainland offer a variety of youth groups. However, if a young person is unwilling to engage in positive connections it is important to still stay connected and wait for a time when they are ready.



A Harm Reduction Approach for Children or Youth that are At-Risk of being Sexually Exploited

Harm reduction refers to any act that aims to minimize risk regarding health, social, and legal impacts. Harm reduction focuses on positive change and working with people without judgement, coercion, discrimination, or requiring that they stop. Harm reduction aims to reduce the risk of spreading or contracting infections, diseases, and pregnancy.

What parents, guardians, caregivers, and service providers can do:

- Create a safety plan
- Give your young person access to information on safe sex
- Create a safe space for young people to engage in conversations regarding sexual health
- Attend a youth clinic to receive more information on sexual health and information on birth control and/or IUDs
- Provide Safe Sex Kits for youth to access: chap stick, male/female condoms (flavoured: oral, unflavoured: intercourse), lube, gloves, cleansing cloths, etc.
- Note: This is a preventative measure to protect children and youth from sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy.
- Provide opportunities for Naloxone Training

Online Safety During A Pandemic

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues, we are facing a different kind of problem with the internet. Young people have constant access to the internet, and this becomes a concern when parents and caregivers are not informed about the latest trends. There are many free apps readily available to download and it is difficult to keep up with the latest Apps that can potentially put a child or youth at risk of being exploited.

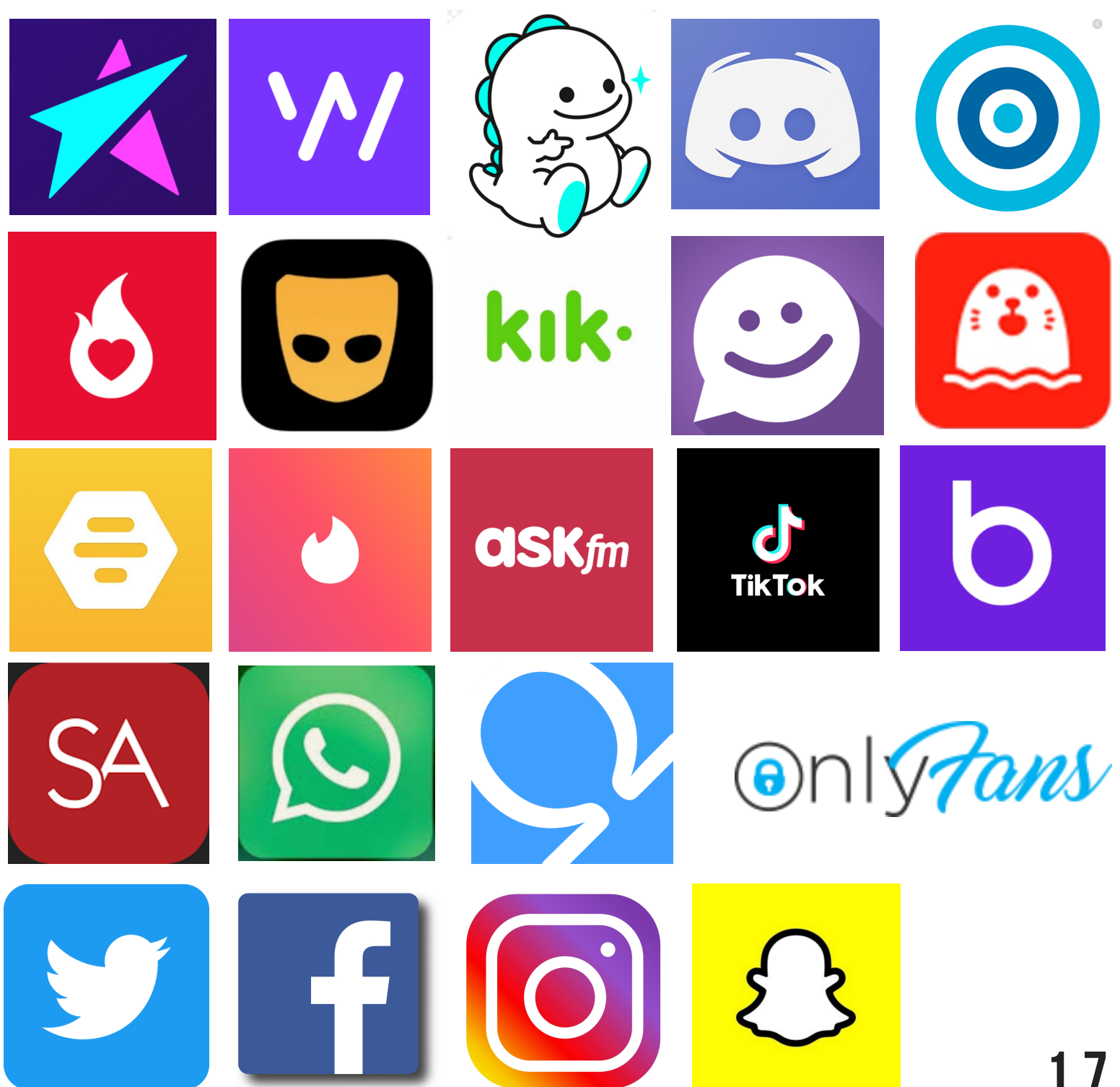
See below for a list of some of the current trending online websites and applications that allow personal messaging which could put children and youth at risk of being sexually exploited: Facebook, Seeking Arrangements, Sugar Daddy, Tinder, Omegle, Only Fans, Instagram, TikTok, Twitter, Snapchat, Kik, and WhatsApp. This not a comprehensive list. As our online world expands, web developers have been busy making this “virtual” world more accessible; creating new websites and applications.

All social media, including gaming platforms and websites, have the capability for direct or private messaging by others who use the same site or app. It is important to understand what apps youth are using, and what the capabilities are for direct messages or private conversations.

*It is important to note that any Application or online website could potentially put a child or youth at risk of being sexually exploited.

WEBSITES AND APPLICATIONS

The following is a collection of commonly used applications for you to ensure your youth are using safely.



TERMINOLOGY

The following is a collection of terms used by exploiters and youth.

Barebacking:
to have sex without
the use of a condom

Bad Date: a term
use by sex workers
this can include
stealing, refusing to
pay, threats, and all
acts of violence

Bet: yes, for sure, I
agree

Blow Job: oral sex
performed on a
male

**Boyfriending/
Girlfriending:** when
an exploiter
manipulates a
youth into thinking
they are in a
relationship

Male condoms: a
thin rubber
(typically latex)
worn on the penis
that keeps sperm
from entering the
vagina

Female condoms:
a thin loose fitting
pouch that is
inserted before sex
to act as a barrier to
keep sperm from
entering the uterus

Date: a term used
by sex workers for
sex or a sexual act in
exchange typically
for money

Cappers - a person
who takes
screenshots of
youth without their
consent or
knowledge

TERMINOLOGY

Fam: Family

F*ck 12 (twelve): F*ck the police

Game: Sex work or Prostitution

Gay for Pay - any straight male who performs sexual acts with other men for survival purposes

Glory Hole: a hole made in a thin wall where a male can insert their penis for sexual stimulation from an anonymous person on the other side of the wall

Hand Job/ Handy: a person stimulated another person's penis with their hand

High Track: a sex worker whose cost is more expensive; typically means they are younger

Ight: alright

Johns/Janes: a man (John) or a woman (Jane) who buys sex

TERMINOLOGY

LG/LB: a term used in schools to refer to a "little girl" or "little boy" who is perceived to be promiscuous or a target for exploitation

LG Party: a party where older youth invite "LGs/LBs" to exchange sex acts for popularity, drugs, alcohol, or acceptance

Love Bombing: when an exploiter excessively compliments and shows affection to a youth to gain their love and trust

Low Track: a sex trade worker whose cost per sex act is lower due to appearance, age, addiction

Lit: awesome or amazing

Madame: a female pimp or a woman who manages a brothel

No Cap: no lie

Salty: an act of being upset, angry, or bitter.

Say Less: say no more

TERMINOLOGY

Sexting: taking and sending explicit pictures, videos, texts and other graphic representations of sexual acts

Slaps: good

Stroll: a set street or area where sex is sold

Sugar baby: a young female or male who is financially pampered or supported by a sugar daddy or sugar momma in exchange for companionship which can include sexual favours

Sugar daddy/
momma: an older person who provides a youth with money, necessities and gifts in exchange for sexual acts and for the youth to pose as their lover

Simp: submissive

Tea: gossip or drama

Trick: refers to the sex trade worker or could also refer to the customers

Turning a trick: performing a sexual act (e.g. she turned tricks for money)

SUPPORT SERVICES

BC Society For Male Survivors Of Sexual Abuse

The British Columbia Society for Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse (BCSMSSA) is a non-profit society established to provide therapeutic services for males who have been sexually abused at some time in their lives

Contact: (604) 682-6482

Website: bc-malesurvivors.com

Children of The Street

Educates and raises awareness by providing young people with the knowledge and tools to keep themselves and their peers safe. Educates the community to recognize, react, and respond to sexual exploitation, and strives to change attitudes of those who create the demand for sexual exploitation and trafficking.

Contact: (604) 777-7510

Email: info@childrenofthestreet.com

Website: www.childrenofthestreet.com

SUPPORT SERVICES

Fraser Health

Forensic nursing: Provides trauma-informed medical and forensic care to individuals who have experienced recent sexual assault and or intentional relationship violence. Accessed through Fraser Health Emergency Department. The Forensic nursing service (FNS) is available at Abbotsford regional hospital & Cancer Centre (ARHCC) and Surrey Memorial Hospital (SMH)

Surrey Youth Clinic: This includes birth control education and some provision, pregnancy testing and decision making, STI information, examinations and treatment and HIV education and testing for youth under the age of 19.

Contact: (604)585-5999

Embrace Clinic: Provides trauma-informed, confidential, short-term specialty medical care to mature minors and adults of any gender who are survivors of recent violence, including sexual assault, partner violence or family violence. Services include medical care, assessment, and follow-up of injuries, screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, rapid HIV testing, pregnancy testing with unbiased options counselling, emergency contraception including IUD insertions, and mental health support.

Contact: (604)807-5406

SUPPORT SERVICES

Canadian Human Trafficking Hot Line

The Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline is a confidential, multilingual service, operating 24/7 to connect victims and survivors with social services, law enforcement, and emergency services, as well as receive tips from the public.

Contact: 1-833-900-1010

Website: www.canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca/

Kids Help Phone

The Kids Help Phone is a counselling, referral, and support service for children and youth under the age of 20 years old. Professional counsellors provide immediate and caring support to young people who are dealing with a problem, making a hard decision, or concerned with feelings or mood. The service is free, confidential, anonymous, and available 24 hours a day.

Contact: 1-800-668-6868

Website: kidshelpphone.ca

Text: 686868

SUPPORT SERVICES

VictimLink BC

VictimLinkBC is a toll-free, confidential, multilingual service available across B.C. and the Yukon 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can be accessed by calling or texting. It provides information and referral services to all victims of crime and immediate crisis support to victims of family and sexual violence, including victims of human trafficking exploited for labour or sexual services.

Contact: 1-800-563-0808

Email: VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca

Stop Exploiting Youth program, PCRS

SEY supports youth 13-18 in Surrey, or Delta to exit a situation or lifestyle of sexual exploitation or risk of sexual exploitation. The program provides SEY workers who meet with youth in their communities, individualized support, flexible hours of operation, and connections to other supports.

Contact: 604-592-6200

Email: ccyh@pcrs.ca

Website: pcrs.ca/our-services/sey/

SUPPORT SERVICES

Sophie's Place

Sophie's Place Child and Youth Advocacy Centre is a collaboration between the Surrey RCMP, Ministry of Children & Family Development, the City of Surrey, Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General and The Centre for Child Development. It is a child and youth advocacy centre dedicated to supporting victims of physical and/or sexual abuse, providing a safe and welcoming place to tell their story. Children and youth ages 0-15 living in Surrey, who are victims of physical and/or sexual abuse are eligible.

Contact: 604-588-0727

Email: spinfo@the-centre.org

Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)

The Ministry of Children and Family Development's primary focus is to support all children and youth in British Columbia to live in safe, healthy and nurturing families and be strongly connected to their communities and culture. The Ministry is also responsible for developing universal, affordable, accessible, quality and inclusive child care. The Ministry supports the well-being of children, youth and families in British Columbia by providing services that are accessible, inclusive, and culturally respectful.

Call Provincial Centralized Screening – toll-free in B.C. at 1 800 663-9122 if you think a child or youth is being abused or neglected. It is available 24 hours a day.

Contact: (604)660-4927

SUPPORT SERVICES

RCMP

1) **The Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Unit** is comprised of two RCMP Police Officers and one Public Servant Technological Crime Analyst. Their mandate is to investigate crimes including, but not limited to, child pornography, luring, non-consensual distribution of intimate images, sextortion and voyeurism. In addition to enforcement, the ICE Unit also strives to discourage exploitation of children through awareness and education.

2) **The Surrey Wrap Program** is a partnership between the Surrey School District, the City of Surrey and the Surrey RCMP. It offers a comprehensive and collaborative support program for students who exhibit signs of gang associated behaviour and those who may have historically had difficulty with police or authority figures.

Contact: (604)595-6195

Email: SAFE-Office@surreyschools.ca

3) **Project Lavender** is a program which aims to empower young women and girls to make positive choices, discover their self-worth, and surround themselves with healthy relationships. Project Lavender is focused on giving our youth the confidence to accept their challenges and strengths with compassion and resiliency so they can make positive life choices. Project Lavender is a one-hour presentation geared towards students in grades 5-10, however it can be adapted to suit community groups and organizations who engage with youth.

Email: Surrey_Diversity@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

SUPPORT SERVICES

Surrey Mobile Assault Response Team (Surrey Women's Centre)

Surrey Mobile Assault Response Team (SMART van) provides services over the phone and in-person to anyone who has experienced a physical or sexual assault by a stranger or someone they know. Our team is available 24-hours a day, seven (7) days per week, 365 days per year to help you access emergency medical, legal and social services. We offer a range of crisis, court and counselling services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and other forms of gender-based violence.

Contact:(604)583-1295



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APPENDICES

Your Rights and Access to Help If You Are a Victim of Crime

You have rights during the criminal justice process if you are a victim of crime.

For more information see www.victimlinkbc.ca, www.canada.ca, or speak to police, victim services, or Crown Counsel.

Under the British Columbia *Victims of Crime Act*:

Your right to general information

If you are a victim of crime, British Columbia's *Victims of Crime Act* gives you the right to receive information about:

- victim services available to you;
- benefits and financial assistance for criminal injury;
- how the criminal justice system works; and
- your rights to privacy.

Your right to information about the offence

If you are a victim of crime, you have a right, on request, to receive information from the criminal justice system including:

- status of the police investigation;
- charges laid against the accused;
- outcome of court appearances; and
- where applicable, length of sentence, and location of the convicted offender.

Your right to privacy

If you are a victim of crime, you have rights under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*:

- to apply for access to information about yourself that is held in justice system files; and
- to know what information obtained about you is protected from unauthorized use or disclosure.

Your right to financial assistance and benefits

If you or your immediate family member are the victim of a violent crime in British Columbia, the *Crime Victim Assistance Act* gives you the right to apply for benefits through the Crime Victim Assistance Program to help offset financial loss and assist in dealing with the impact of violent crime.

Your right to provide a Victim Impact Statement

If you are a victim of crime, you have the right to provide information to the court about how the crime has impacted you.

Under the Canadian *Victims Bill of Rights*:

If you are a victim of certain offences, including all offences under the *Criminal Code*, the federal *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights* provides you with the following rights. There are limitations to exercising these rights including that they must be exercised in a manner that is not likely to interfere with the proper administration of justice.

Your right to information

Victims have the right on request to receive general information about the criminal justice system, the victim services and programs available to them, including restorative justice programs, and their right to file a complaint if they believe their rights have been denied or infringed. Victims can also request certain case specific information about the status and outcome of the investigation and prosecution.

Your right to protection

Victims have the right to have their security and privacy considered at all stages of the criminal justice process, and to have reasonable and necessary protection measures from intimidation and retaliation. Victims also have the right to ask for a testimonial aid or to have their identity protected when appearing as a witness at court appearances.

Your right to participation

Victims have the right to present victim impact statements and have them considered in court. Victims also have the right to express their views about decisions that affect their rights.

Your right to restitution

Victims have the right to have the court consider making a restitution order and have an unpaid restitution order entered as a civil court judgment.



Ministry of
Justice

APPENDICES

Your Rights and Access to Help If You Are a Victim of Crime

Help is available if you are a victim of crime.

Victim Service Programs

Victim service programs may be available in your community to provide you with:

- help in coping with the effects of a crime;
- emotional support;
- an explanation of what happens in court;
- help in applying for compensation, if eligible;
- referrals to other agencies; and
- help in preparing a victim impact statement.

Victim Notification

The Victim Safety Unit provides information to victims about the status of an accused or offender who is supervised by B.C. Corrections. Some information may also be provided to persons protected by a *Family Law Act* protection order. For more information, contact the Victim Safety Unit at (604) 660-0316 or toll-free at 1-877-315-8822 or www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victimservices/victim-safety.

Testimonial Accommodations

The *Criminal Code* provides that witnesses may request the following testimonial accommodations when they testify:

- a support person of their choice nearby;
- testifying from a room other than the courtroom;
- testifying from behind a screen or other device;
- if the accused doesn't have his or her own lawyer, another lawyer may be appointed to ask a witness questions;
- the exclusion of the public;
- the non-disclosure of a witness' identity; or
- an order to protect the security of a witness.

Applications for these accommodations can be made by Crown Counsel or the witness. The court will decide whether or not to allow the accommodation. Please contact your Crown Counsel office for more information.

Restorative Justice Programs

Restorative justice programs exist in many B.C. communities. These programs work with offenders, victims, and the larger community to help repair the harm caused by conflict and crime. A directory of programs can be found at: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/crimeprevention/shareddocs/RestorativeJusticeProgramsBritishColumbia.pdf.

Financial Assistance and Benefits

Victims, their immediate family members and some witnesses can apply to the Crime Victim Assistance Program for benefits to assist in dealing with the effects of violent crime and to help with some of the costs. Application forms and additional information is available through local victim service programs or online at: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victimservices/financial.

How to file a complaint about a justice agency

If you believe that your rights in the *Victims of Crime Act* or the *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights* have been infringed or denied, information about the complaint processes within British Columbia's criminal justice system agencies can be found at www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victimservices/publications or speak to a victim services worker.

VictimLink BC

VictimLink BC is a toll-free, multilingual, confidential telephone service available across B.C. and Yukon 24 hours a day, seven days a week that provides information and referral services to all victims of crime and immediate crisis support to victims of family and sexual violence.

- Contact VictimLink BC at 1-800-563-0808 (toll-free in B.C. and Yukon)
- Call TTY at 604 875-0885; to call collect, please call Telus Relay Service at 711
- Text 604 836-6381
- Email VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca
- www.victimlinkbc.ca

Ministry of Justice
Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch
Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division
302 – 815 Hornby Street, Vancouver, BC V6Z 2E6
Phone: 604 660-5199 | Fax: 604 660-5340
Email: VictimServices@gov.bc.ca
www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victimservices



Ministry of
Justice

APPENDICES

rights...



supporting the rights of children
& youth is as easy as 1-2-3-4

1 **Non-discrimination**
treat everyone fairly and with respect

2 **Right to life, survival, & development**
children & youth have a right to the basic things to live,
survive, & develop

3 **Best interests of children & youth**
always ask yourself:
“is the decision I’m making good for kids?”



4 **Respect the views of children & youth**
children & youth need to participate and have their
views considered when decisions are being made
that affect them



everychild.ca

SOCIETY FOR
children
and youth
OF BC



REPRESENTATIVE FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

SS BC Centre for
SAFE SCHOOLS
& COMMUNITIES

REEL YOUTH



APPENDICES



This wheel was adapted from the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project's Duluth Model Power and Control Wheel, available at www.theduluthmodel.org

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This publication was made possible in part through Grant Number 90XR0012/02 from the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, Office of Refugee Resettlement, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, Office of Refugee Resettlement, or HHS.

APPENDICES

united nations convention on the **RIGHTS of CHILDREN & YOUTH**



Canada ratified this convention in 1991. All children and youth under the age of 18 have these rights. These rights say that every young person needs to be treated fairly and with respect, to be protected, to be provided the basic things they need to live and thrive, to have adults make decisions that are in their best interests, and that young people need to participate in decisions that affect them.

Article 1

Everyone under 18 has all these rights.

Article 2

You have the right to protection against discrimination. This means that nobody can treat you badly because of your colour, sex or religion, if you speak another language, have a disability, or are rich or poor.

Article 3

All adults should always do what is best for you.

Article 4

You have the right to have your rights made a reality by the government.

Article 5

You have the right to be given guidance by your parents and family.

Article 6

You have the right to life.

Article 7

You have the right to have a name and a nationality.

Article 8

You have the right to an identity.

Article 9

You have the right to live with your parents, unless it is bad for you.

Article 10

If you and your parents are living in separate countries, you have the right to get back together and live in the same place.

Article 11

You should not be kidnapped.

Article 12

You have the right to an opinion and for it to be listened to and taken seriously.

Article 13

You have the right to find out things and say what you think, through making art, speaking and writing, unless it interferes with the rights of others.

Article 14

You have the right to think what you like and learn about different religions, with your parents' guidance.

Article 15

You have the right to be with friends and join or set up clubs, unless this interferes with the rights of others.

Article 16

You have the right to a private life. For instance, you can keep a diary that other people are not allowed to see.

Article 17

You have the right to collect information from the media—radios, newspapers, television, etc.—from all around the world. You should also be protected from information that could harm you.

Article 18

You have the right to be brought up by your parents, if possible.

Article 19

You have the right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated.

Article 20

You have the right to special protection and help if you can't live with your parents.

Article 21

You have the right to have the best care for you if you are adopted or fostered or living in care.

Article 22

You have the right to special protection and help if you are a refugee. A refugee is someone who has had to leave their country because it is not safe for them to live there.

Article 23

If you are disabled, either mentally or physically, you have the right to special care and education to help you develop and lead a full life.

Article 24

You have a right to the best health possible, to medical care, and to information that will help you to stay well.

Article 25

You have the right to have your living arrangements checked and evaluated if you live away from your biological parents, for example, if you live in foster care.

Article 26

You have the right to help from the government if you are poor or in need.

Article 27

You have the right to a good enough standard of living. This means you should have food, clothes, and a place to live.

Article 28

You have the right to education.

Article 29

You have the right to an education that develops your personality and abilities as much as possible, encourages you to respect other people's rights and values and to respect the environment.

Article 30

If you come from a minority group, because of your race, religion or language, you have the right to enjoy your own culture, practice your own religion, and use your own language.

Article 31

You have the right to play and relax by doing things like sports, music and drama.

Article 32

You have the right to protection from work that is bad for your health or education.

Article 33

You have the right to be protected from dangerous drugs.

Article 34

You have the right to be protected from sexual abuse.

Article 35

No-one is allowed to kidnap you or sell you.

Article 36

You have the right to protection from any other kind of exploitation.

Article 37

You have the right not to be punished in a cruel or hurtful way.

Article 38

You have a right to protection in times of war. If you are under 15, you should never have to be in an army or take part in a battle.

Article 39

You have the right to help if you have been hurt, neglected, or badly treated.

Article 40

You have the right to help in defending yourself if you are accused of breaking the law.

Article 41

If the place you live offers you better rights than what is in this convention, you are entitled to enjoy those rights.

Article 42

All adults and children should know about this convention. You have a right to learn about your rights and adults should learn about them too.



PCRS

Thriving, healthy communities