

**BACKGROUND**  
**STRATEGY TO ADDRESS SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**  
**OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

**November 14, 2006**

- The use of a child or youth under the age of 18 years for sexual purposes in exchange for some benefit such as money, drugs, food, shelter or other considerations is sexual exploitation.
- Children and youth exploited in the sex trade are victims of sexual abuse and should be protected. The sexual exploitation of children and youth is reprehensible and cannot be tolerated. Those who exploit children for sexual purposes will be held accountable for their actions through effective crime prevention and strict law enforcement.
- In 1997, Saskatchewan developed a comprehensive strategy to protect children from sexual exploitation through the sex-trade. Further actions were implemented in response to the June 2001 recommendations of the Joint Special Committee of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan (Special Committee to Prevent the Abuse and Exploitation of Children Through the Sex Trade).
- **Front-line service providers tell us that the strategy has had a positive impact:**
  - **police report a marked reduction in traffic in the stroll areas;**
  - **intervention committees have improved networking among service providers; and**
  - **there are more safe places for sexually exploited children and youth.**
- On November 14, 2006, the province announced further enhancements to the strategy.

*New initiatives:*

- \$50,000 in 2006-2007 and \$550,000 annually to expand capacity of police to deal with street level sexual exploitation of children. Five new municipal police positions: two in Regina, two in Saskatoon and one in Prince Albert; will work closely with community organizations and government agencies. (Responds to Recommendation 10 of the report of the Joint Special Committee)
- \$33,000 in 2006-2007 and \$390,000 annually to establish a specialized team staffed by two prosecutors and one assistant coordinator to strengthen the province's ability to use the National Flagging System to identify long-term offender or dangerous offender cases. One new RCMP investigator will work closely with the prosecutors.
- \$50,000 in 2006-2007, \$150,000 in 2007-2008 and \$50,000 annually to fund a public education campaign aimed at prevention of child sexual exploitation. (Recommendation #36)

### ***Provincial Legislation:***

- *The Emergency Protection for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Act* (October 2002). The Act allows police, child protection staff and other designated persons to apply, on an emergency basis, to a Justice of the Peace for an Emergency Protection Intervention Order. These orders are directed at those who place a child under 18 years of age at risk of sexual exploitation, and can contain conditions prohibiting contact with the child and keeping the person from entering stroll areas. It also expands police search powers in cases of child sexual abuse. It is an offence under section 127 of the *Criminal Code* to breach an order.
- Amendments to *The Highway Traffic Act* (April 2002) permit police to seize vehicles used in the commission of a prostitution offence, and the province to suspend the licenses of those convicted of such offences. Further amendments (October 2002) created an offence of repeatedly driving or parking a vehicle, without lawful excuse, in an area that is frequented by sex trade workers. This offence is punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000. These amendments have contributed to a marked reduction in traffic in stroll areas, and enhanced protections for and the safety of people, particularly children and youth, residing in such areas. (Responds to Recommendation 3 of the report of the Joint Special Committee)
- Amendments to *The Victims of Crime Regulations* (May 2002) ensure that child and youth victims exploited by sex trade crimes have access to a full range of victim services, including compensation. (Recommendations 4 and 17)
- *The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Regulations* (May 2006) allow the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) investigations unit to shut down a property used for child sexual exploitation. (Recommendation 10)

### ***Other Initiatives:***

- Training on *The Emergency Protection for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation Act* has been incorporated into the training provided to Community Resources family service and First Nation child and family service agency staff as well as into the training provided to police at the Saskatchewan Police College.
- Since 1997-1998 government has funded outreach, prevention and crisis intervention services delivered by the Prince Albert Youth Outreach Project, the Kihkinak Friendship Centre, the Rainbow Youth Project, Operation Help, EGADZ and Mobile Services.
- Starting in 1999, Community Resources partnered with First Nation organizations to develop Safe Houses in Saskatoon and Regina. The Saskatoon Tribal Council has operated a Saskatoon Safe House since 1999. Safe House services are not currently available in Regina with the closure of the Oyate Safe House. Community Resources is exploring options for service to youth in Regina and area.

- Community Resources has designated 41 spaces in specialized residential and adolescent group home programs as resources for sexually exploited children or youth, or those children and youth who are at risk of sexual exploitation. These homes provide 24-hour care, supervision and counseling for children in crisis, and a range of services, from emergency care and safety to long-term treatment.
- Since 1997, Prosecutors have been directed to accord sexually exploited children and youth the same protections as other vulnerable victims, to divert prostitution charges against children and youth whenever appropriate, and to seek meaningful penalties when persons are convicted of these offences. Since 2002, prosecutors have been directed to seek larger than usual victim surcharges in all child abuse cases, particularly in cases where children were being exploited through involvement in the sex-trade. (Recommendations 4, 5, 7 and 10)
- Since 1999, the provincial policing policy on child prostitution directs police to view sexually exploited children and youth as abused, exploited and victimized, and to work with child protection staff to ensure their safety. It also seeks to ensure that those who offend against these children and youth are charged, and, since 2002, that preventative orders are used whenever possible. The policy also encourages police services to employ investigative techniques that reflect the complexity of these cases. (Recommendations 5, 7 and 10)
- In 2002-03, Justice provided grants of \$10,000 to police in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert to implement the Deter and Identify Sex Trade Consumers (DISC) computer program to track sex trade consumers and workers. The Police College training seminar for investigators in vice, family services and major crimes includes training on DISC. (Recommendation 8 and 11)
- In 2002, a Prostitution Offender Intervention Programs (John's School) delivered by community-based organizations were implemented in Saskatoon; the Regina program has been running since 1997. (Prince Albert offenders attend the Saskatoon program). (Recommendation 13)
- Since 2002, specialized training on matters related to the investigation of the involvement of children in the sex trade has been part of the core training provided by the Saskatchewan Police College. (Recommendations 7 and 10)
- A comprehensive National Sex Offender Registry began operating in December 2004. The registry requires that those convicted of sexual offences, including the sexual exploitation of children, are registered on a national database accessible for police investigations of suspected sex crimes. (Recommendation 12)
- The Saskatchewan Justice Minister has proposed an amendment to the *Criminal Code* that would create a presumption that those driving vehicles in an area frequented by prostitutes and have a child enter their vehicle are communicating with that child for the purpose of prostitution. (Recommendation 9)

- SchoolPLUS (February 2002) establishes two key functions for schools - to educate children and youth and to support service delivery. Work is underway in three areas:
  - families and communities - to nurture and renew commitment to the healthy development of children and youth;
  - human service systems - to effectively link to schools; and,
  - all schools - to become open, inclusive and able to meet the needs of all children and young people.
  
- Saskatchewan Learning is enhancing its Student Record System to provide school divisions and Saskatchewan Learning with real-time access to, and greater information on, the progress and location of each student in the large provincial educational system. The enhancements to the Student Record System will also be able to determine how many students are not in school and whom these students are, so that action can be taken to determine why they are not in school and how their educational needs can be met.
  
- There is a range of general medical, public health, alcohol and drug and mental health services available in or through regional health authorities across the province. There are a number of specific initiatives and services that more directly address the health needs of youth involved on the street, as well as those involved in the sex trade including:
  - public health outreach, needle exchange and methadone programs;
  - out-patient substance abuse counseling, intervention and outreach services for youth as well as awareness and prevention programs;
  - detoxification services for youth through inpatient hospitalization, admission to detox centres, physician-directed outpatient withdrawal management, and residential detoxification and stabilization services.
  
- A range of out-patient, residential and day treatment mental health services for children and youth including:
  - the Co-ordinated Behaviour Management Initiative, located in 11 health regions, provides integrated case management for children and youth with very challenging behaviours
  - the Youth Services Model Pilot Projects in Prince Albert and Regina to reduce reliance on the youth criminal justice system as a way to address the needs of youth with misconduct;
  - the At Risk Child and Youth Program in Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Battlefords and Yorkton for children and youth who may or could be involved in the youth criminal justice system without this intervention;
  - the Randall Kinship Centre, located in the central core of Regina, providing culturally appropriate centre and home-based family focused services for behaviour disordered children and youth;
  - Community Assessment Treatment Unit in Saskatoon, providing short-term residential assessment and treatment services for children and youth with mental disorders;
  - home-visiting and health supports for at risk, chemically dependant women and their families in La Ronge; and

- intensive home-visiting, early learning, childcare, parenting supports, mental health and addictions services through Kids First (parents whose babies are born in Saskatchewan hospitals are screened to help identify families facing challenges such as poverty, low education levels, dependence on social assistance, single parenthood or lack of social supports).
- Corrections and Public Safety continues to redesign and improve services to ensure that they meet the needs of all youth for whom we have case management responsibility, including sexually exploited youth. (Recommendation 26)
- All youth for whom Corrections and Public Safety has case management responsibility receive a risk assessment. A risk assessment identifies the level of risk to re-offend and the needs that must be met in order to reduce re-offending. Risk assessments help to provide the right service at the right time for the right youth. This is one of the cornerstones to successful implementation of Saskatchewan's Youth Services Model. (Recommendation 26)
- A Community Safety Plan is developed for all youth for whom Corrections and Public Safety has case management responsibility. The Community Safety Plan identifies the activities the youth, the youth worker and other support people will engage in to manage and reduce the youth's risk to re-offend. Youth serving a community-based sentence are encouraged to access community-based services that are able to address their unique needs and risk factors. (Recommendation 26)
- The following services are available in facilities where youth are serving custody sentences:
  - Health - Healthy life-styles and responsible sexual behavior programs are in place in both secure and open custody. Many such programs are offered in partnerships with community health including pre/postnatal care and parenting groups.
  - Drug and alcohol - Services are available in partnership with addiction services in each community. Use of community programs are emphasized such as Narcotic Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous and in-patient treatment as part of community integration. Drug and alcohol education groups are available in facilities at most locations.
  - Cultural services - All custody facilities have employees assigned to co-ordinate cultural services for youth. Involvement in community based cultural programs is emphasized for reintegration purposes. In facility programs include sweats, one-on-one involvement with Elders, Pow-wows, drumming/dancing groups, etc. Partnerships with Tribal Counsels, FSIN and Elders have been established to meet the varying needs of youth in custody. (Recommendation 26)