

# Transportation & Trafficking Fact Sheet

Safe Passage  
An Initiative of:



Native Women's  
Association of Canada

L'Association des  
femmes autochtones  
du Canada



## 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 or forced labour” (Department of Justice, 2020).

**This can look very different from what you might expect. It isn't always obvious and there might not be any clear signs a person is a victim of trafficking. Some individuals might not even realize they are being trafficked yet.**

## Trafficking & The Trucking Industry

### HOW THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY AND TRAFFICKING ARE CONNECTED

**The transportation industry may intersect with trafficking because transportation hubs (i.e., truck stops, restaurants, hotels/motels near major highways) are strategic locations for traffickers to operate in and through.**

Also, traffickers often target professions that tend to be male-dominated and/or transient in nature to supply demand. Since the transportation industry checks both of these boxes, they are likely to intersect with trafficking situations.

There are many anti-trafficking resources, such as materials from Truckers Against Trafficking, that offer suggestions on what to look for when trafficking is suspected. Some of these suggestions include active solicitation at stops and along routes, individuals who show signs of emotional or physical distress or poor health,

individuals who may be brought to locations by another person, and individuals who do not have personal belongings including ID and who may know little about their whereabouts.

While these suggestions of what to look for may be a basic starting point to identify signs of trafficking, it is important to keep in mind that it isn't always obvious if a person is being trafficked or not. Traffickers often train their victims to hide any of these signs and act as if everything were normal and people who are trafficked are too afraid of their traffickers to tell people they are in danger.

**Because of this, it is important to be aware of the possibility that anyone might be a victim of trafficking, including victims who might not understand that they are. It is also important to be aware that any person who is a minor and who is unaccompanied should be considered in need of help and/or trafficked. The exploitation of any underaged person is trafficking.**



## How You Can Help

Visit the **Truckers Against Trafficking** website and learn more about human trafficking.

Be aware if your routes intersect with known trafficking corridors.

Post a symbol or sign at eye-level that lets people near your truck know that you support anti-trafficking initiatives, like this sticker from Truckers Against Trafficking.

Have a clear plan in mind if/when you identify a possible trafficking situation.

## Help End the Cycle of Violence against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people

- Learn about colonialism and colonial violence to understand how Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are impacted.
- Tell others about how Indigenous women and girls are marginalized, exploited, and made vulnerable by colonialism.
- Value the lives of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, believe they are deserving of protection and safety, and act on that.
- Treat Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people with respect, approach them as equals and see that they are sacred.
- Ask women who may be in need if they want help, and if so, how they may be helped.
- Stand up against those who blame Indigenous people 'as the problem', flip the narrative to focus on perpetrators as the problem.
- Contact a local organization that supports victims and survivors of trafficking. This is preferred over law enforcement because there is a risk that officers may hold racist views or stigma against Indigenous women, girls or 2SLGBTQQIA+ people involved in trafficking.

## What to Do if you Suspect Trafficking

- Do not directly engage with the suspected trafficker or victim, as it may put the victim in danger
- Call the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline (1-833-900-1010)



\*\*Trucking and Trafficking information adapted from **Truckers Against Trafficking** training materials. **To learn more, visit their site.**



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