

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO: SERVICE PROVIDER AND SURVIVOR NEEDS AND PERSPECTIVES



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NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO RESEARCH ALLIANCE ON  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In the spring and fall of 2017, the Northeastern Ontario Research Alliance on Human Trafficking ([NORAHT](#)) – a partnership between Amelia Rising Sexual Assault Centre of Nipissing, the Anishinabek Nation: Union of Ontario Indians, the AIDS Committee of North Bay and Area, and Nipissing University – hosted eight different workshops across northeastern Ontario with service providers and persons with lived experience. The purpose of NORAHT's study is to understand patterns of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation in northeastern Ontario; to identify existing services and grassroots advocacy; and to identify service gaps and barriers in this region.

NORAHT's research is located within an anti-oppressive decolonial framework because understanding violence against Indigenous women requires a framework that addresses the gendered, violent legacy of colonialism. Following principles of participatory action research (PAR), which emphasizes the co-creation of knowledge through collaboration and research for the purpose of collective action, we asked participants the following questions:

### **Morning Session: Service Mapping, Gaps and Barriers:**

- What is your or your organization's experience with human trafficking?
- What did you do or would you do in responding to human trafficking?
- What resources or tools do you wish were available to organizations in your community and region in order respond to human trafficking?"

### **Afternoon Session — Next Steps:**

- What are the next steps?
- What do we want to make happen?
- How can we start to make it happen?" Flip charts from these sessions"

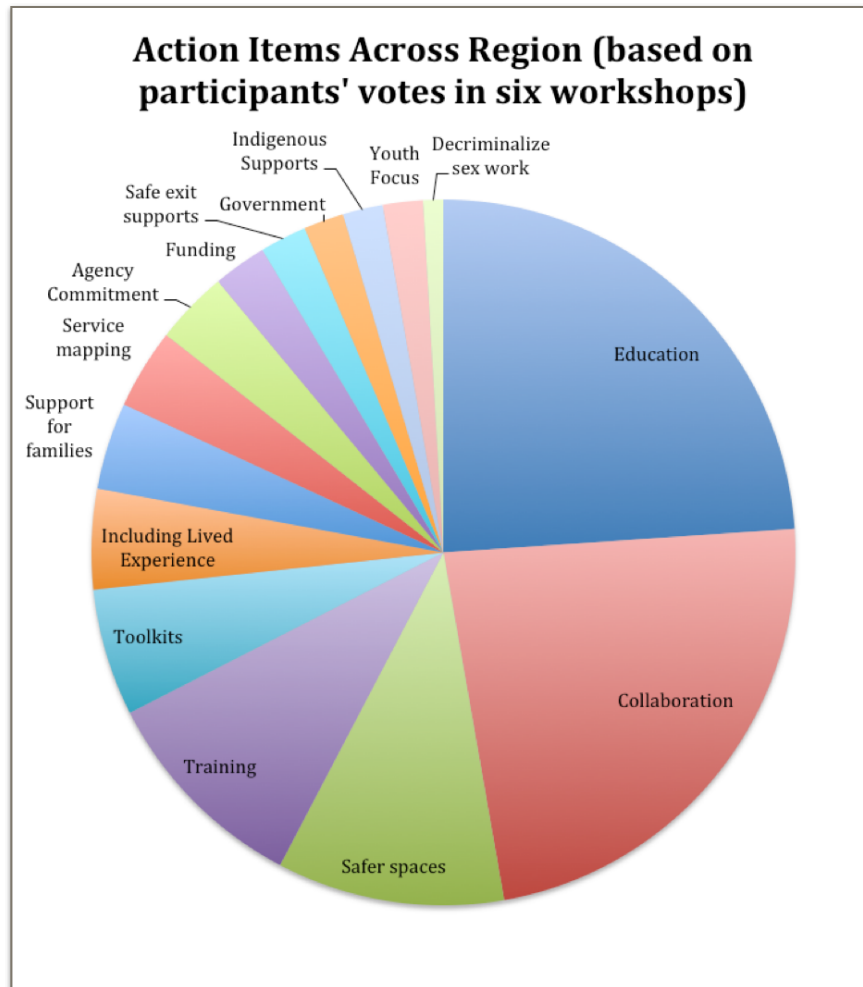
In total, 165 participants attended our workshops in North Bay, Sudbury, Sault Ste Marie, Manitoulin Island, Cochrane, Kirkland Lake, Parry Sound and Dokis First Nation. Approximately 60 of those participants attended on behalf of Indigenous agencies and/or self-identified as Indigenous. Five participants had lived experience (either directly or as family members) in human trafficking and/or the sex trade.

## 1. FINDINGS:

There are significant resource gaps in the region, including the need for:

- Safe and affordable housing
- Research and better data on human trafficking

- Funding
- Service provider toolkits, including Indigenous-specific resources
- Safe(r) spaces and other transitional supports
- Education and general awareness



Northern-specific barriers to service provision include “huge geographical area,” “remoteness and accessibility” and the inadequacy of putting someone on a bus to head “down south” for services away from family and community supports. Thus, we heard multiple calls for the development of safe(r) spaces and/or a dedicated safe house in the region for survivors of human trafficking.

Overall, participants across the northeast prioritized the need for education and collaboration, including through the development of safe(r) spaces, toolkits and service mapping. Participants also noted the importance of providing supports to families of those who have been trafficked and of listening to the voices of persons with lived experience in human trafficking and/or the sex trade.

## 2. Observations and Next Steps:

We commend the tremendous work being done by service providers across the region despite, in many cases, the lack of resources or mandates. However, we also note several challenges that emerged during the workshops. We encountered tensions regarding the autonomy of sex work, a lack of understanding or agreement as to what constitutes human trafficking, the use of problematic terminology such as “girls” and “victims” that denies people’s agency, self-determination and empowerment, and a vital need for resources, including culturally specific resources.

One of the key lessons we have drawn from this opening phase of the project is the importance of further including lived experience. Thus, we seek more people who are willing to share their stories and advice regarding human trafficking and/or the sex trade. We hope to develop educational resources and indicator tools (both top requests) that are sensitive to the nuances of sex work as well as the unique circumstances of the north.

The next stage of NORAHT’s project is the “action phase” of participatory action research. We are planning three conferences for Fall 2018 in order to discuss findings with participants, hold breakout sessions for the development of toolkits and other resources, and continue to build awareness and networks. Please save the following dates and stay tuned for further details!

**Sault Ste Marie:** Sept. 26-29, 2018 (hosted by Hope Alliance, PACT Grandmothers, and Missanabie Cree First Nation)

**Timmins:** Nov. 8, 2108

**Sudbury:** Nov. 19, 2018

The full report and individual community briefings are available on our website in the [news and research](#) section for quick reference.

## REGIONAL REPORT:

In the spring and fall of 2017, the Northeastern Ontario Research Alliance on Human Trafficking ([NORAHT](#)) – a partnership between Amelia Rising Sexual Assault Centre of Nipissing, the Anishinabek Nation: Union of Ontario Indians, the AIDS Committee of North Bay and Area, and Nipissing University – hosted eight different workshops across northeastern Ontario with service providers and persons with lived experience. The purpose of NORAHT's study is to understand patterns of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation in northeastern Ontario; to identify existing services and grassroots advocacy; and to identify service gaps and barriers in this region. In total, 165 participants attended our workshops. Approximately 60 of those participants attended on behalf of Indigenous agencies and/or self-identified as Indigenous. Five participants had lived experience (either directly or as family members) in human trafficking and/or the sex trade. This report provides an overview of the data collected in this phase of our research project. First, we provide a regional overview and then a brief report from each of the eight communities (each community report is also available on our website in the [news and research section](#) for quick reference). NORAHT acknowledges Nipissing First Nation, on whose traditional lands we are located. Further, our research spans across Anishnaabeg and Mushkegowuk territories, and we acknowledge the First Peoples and ancestors of these lands.

## 1. METHODOLOGY:

NORAHT's research is located within an anti-oppressive decolonial framework because understanding violence against Indigenous women requires a framework that "addresses the gendered, violent legacy of colonialism."<sup>1</sup>

This approach is important given that northeastern Ontario is home to diverse Indigenous nations and scholarship indicates that Indigenous women experience higher rates of violence and exploitation compared to non-Indigenous women in Canada. For these reasons, we honour Indigenous voices and knowledges in our work. This includes beginning and ending our community workshops in a "good way" led by Indigenous elders. Moreover, our analysis of human trafficking – for the purpose of sexual exploitation – is attentive to the systemic causes of violence against women, which for Indigenous women is inseparable from the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism.

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<sup>1</sup> Nagy, Rosemary. "Combatting Violence Against Indigenous Women: Reconciliation as Decolonisation for Canada's Stolen Sisters." *Rape Justice: Beyond Criminal Law*. Ed. Nicola Henry, Anastasia Powell and Asher Flynn. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015. 182-99. Print.

Following principles of participatory action research (PAR), which emphasizes the co-creation of knowledge through collaboration and research for the purpose of collective action<sup>2</sup>, we asked participants the following questions:

**Morning Session: Service Mapping, Gaps and Barriers:**

- What is your or your organization's experience with human trafficking?
- What did you do or would you do in responding to human trafficking?
- What resources or tools do you wish were available to organizations in your community and region in order to respond to human trafficking?"

**Afternoon Session — Next Steps:**

- What are the next steps?
  - What do we want to make happen?
  - How can we start to make it happen?"
- Flip charts from these sessions"

During small group discussions, members of the research team took notes and sometimes joined the conversation to prompt for details or more fully explore certain themes. Participants also recorded key ideas on flip charts, which were later presented back to the plenary (some workshops were too small for sub-groups). Flip charts from the "Next Steps" afternoon session were also placed around the room and participants were given three sticky dots to put beside their preferred recommendations ("dotmocracy"). (Note: we did not do the dotmocracy in North Bay or Dokis).

The findings presented here summarize the thematic analysis of all flip chart notes as well as the dotmocracy results.

We coded notes on the flip charts and dotmocracy according to the following themes (some items were double-coded):

- Colonialism
- Collaboration (between agencies for responding to human trafficking)
- Data/research (the need for more data and research)
- Education (for general public, for communities, for industry)
- Funding (mentions of specific funding sources or lack of funding)
- Gaps in Resources (particularly at the local level)
- Housing (lack of safe, affordable housing)

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<sup>2</sup>Maguire, Patricia. "Feminist Participatory Research." *Just Methods: An Interdisciplinary Feminist Reader*. Ed. Alison M. Jaggar. Paradigm Publishers: Boulder and London, 2014. 417-432.

- Indicators/identifying trafficking (challenges in identifying human trafficking, including how to distinguish it from sex work)
- Indigenous culture (with reference to teachings, tradition, knowledge, healing)
- Lived experience (including lived experience in responses to human trafficking)
- Needs of Trafficked Persons (basic needs)
- Policing/Legal system
- Recruitment (discussions of how traffickers operate)
- Risks and Vulnerabilities (connections to poverty, homelessness, domestic violence, mental health and addictions)
- Support for families/parents (of persons who have been trafficked)
- Training (for service providers and first responders)

We collated our findings and present in this report the top three themes of discussion and top three votes in the dotmocracy for each session. We also provide a general summary for each community. While the tallying of codes and votes is not an especially nuanced method of analysis, it does give us an overarching sense of localized and regional concerns. More nuanced analysis based on NORAHT researchers' detailed session notes is in progress.

## 2. FINDINGS:

The prevailing topic of discussion across the eight workshops was "Gaps in Resources," followed by the need for Education, Collaboration, and the Needs of Trafficked Persons (see Chart 1 below). Please note that due to double coding, "Gaps in Resources" may be duplicated in categories such as Housing, Education, Data/ Research, where significant gaps exist. Participants also spoke in great detail about the need for service mapping and greater communication between agencies and about the lack of safe spaces<sup>3</sup>, transitional and other supports, and funding.

Additionally, northern-specific barriers to service provision included "huge geographical area," "remoteness and accessibility" and the inadequacy of putting someone on a bus to head "down south" for services away from family and community supports.

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<sup>3</sup> A fully safe space is likely never possible. Thus, we refer to "safe(r)" spaces that encompass measures aimed to increase one's physical, mental, emotional and spiritual safety. This could include things such as physical security, being a judgement-free zone, LGBTQ2S-positive, harm reduction, and allowing for smudges.



Overall, calls for education campaigns were focused on prevention while gaps in service were focused on capacity. This is not surprising as service providers work on prevention strategies as a part of their work, and they voiced how much effort is put into stretching mandates and working off the side of their desks to meet capacity demands. Yet, to paraphrase one of our participants, preventive education is fine but if we don't have resources in place, then billboards and posters are useless, if not dangerous.

Graph 1: REGIONAL DISCUSSION THEMES

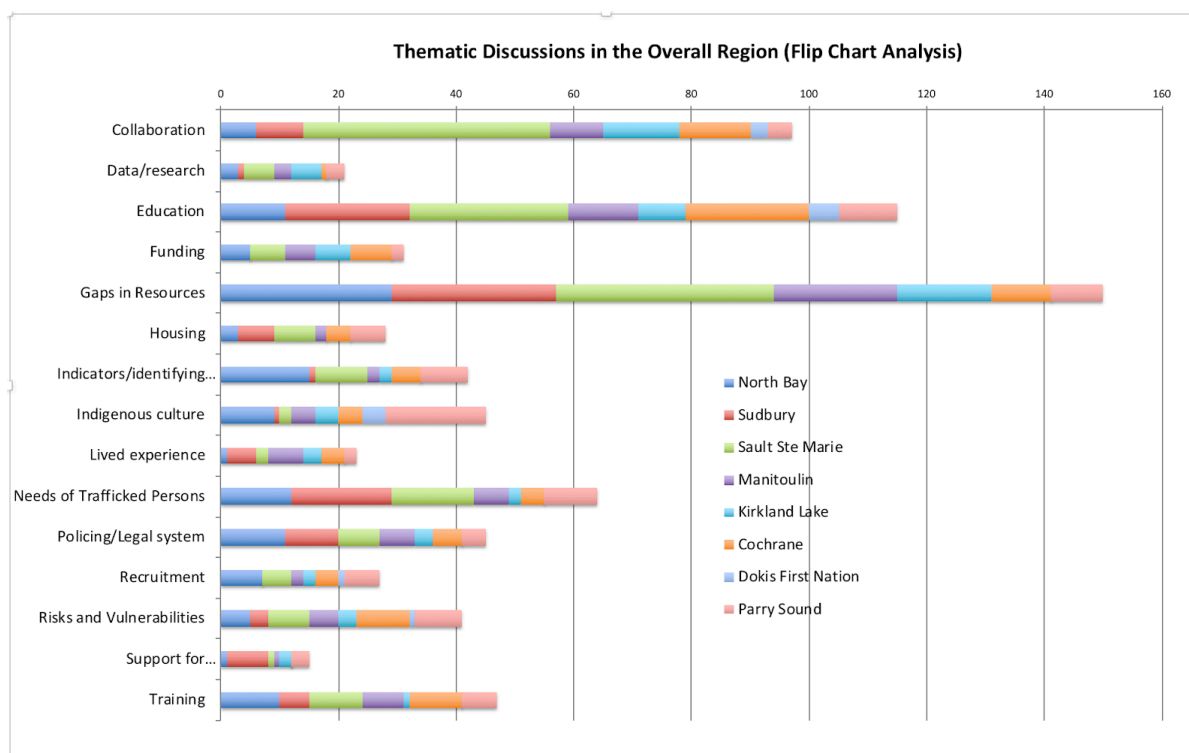
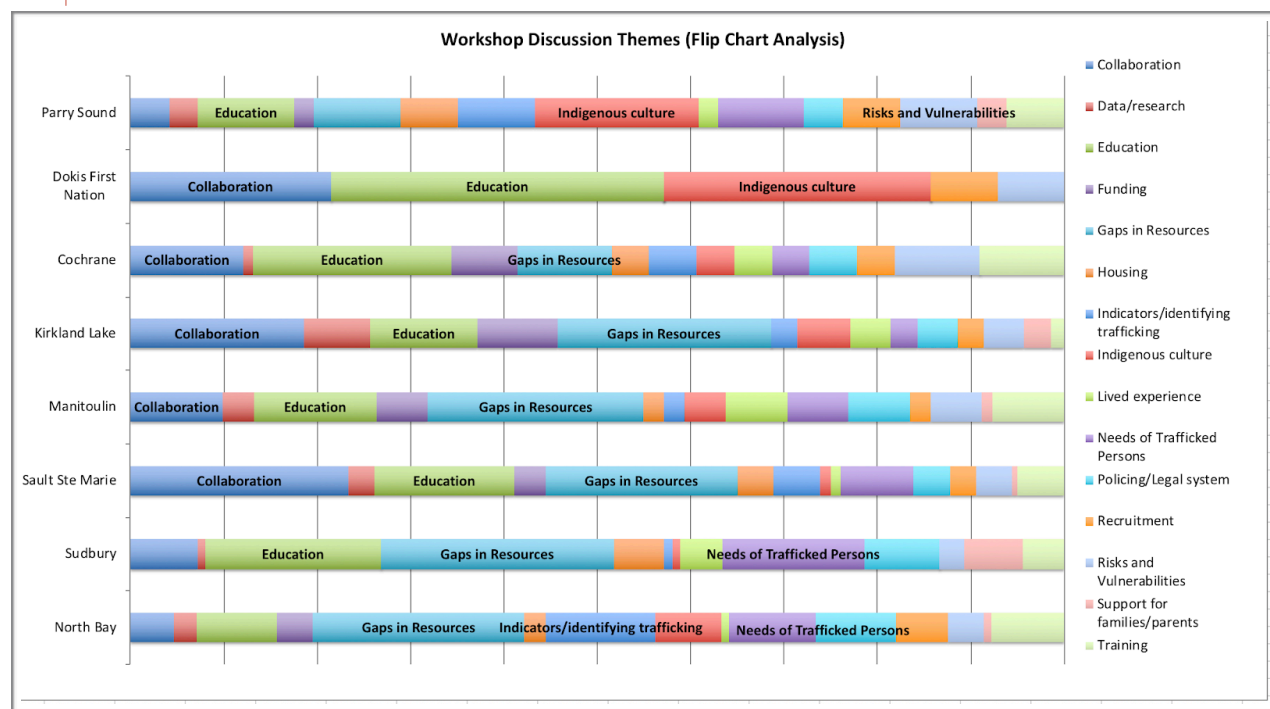


Chart 2 below shows that some communities prioritized different items above others. Indigenous culture predominated, not surprisingly, in locations with significant Indigenous attendance (Parry Sound and Dokis First Nation). Collaboration featured most strongly in Sault Ste Marie, which has already initiated the Hope Alliance, which is a city-wide committee "providing advocacy, outreach, and prevention, education, and harm reduction services." Participants in Sudbury emphasized the needs of trafficked persons in terms of counselling, shelter/accommodation, and transitional services. Participants in North Bay spent a long time talking about how to identify someone who has been trafficked and raised multiple questions about how to get someone to disclose that they are being trafficked. The northernmost

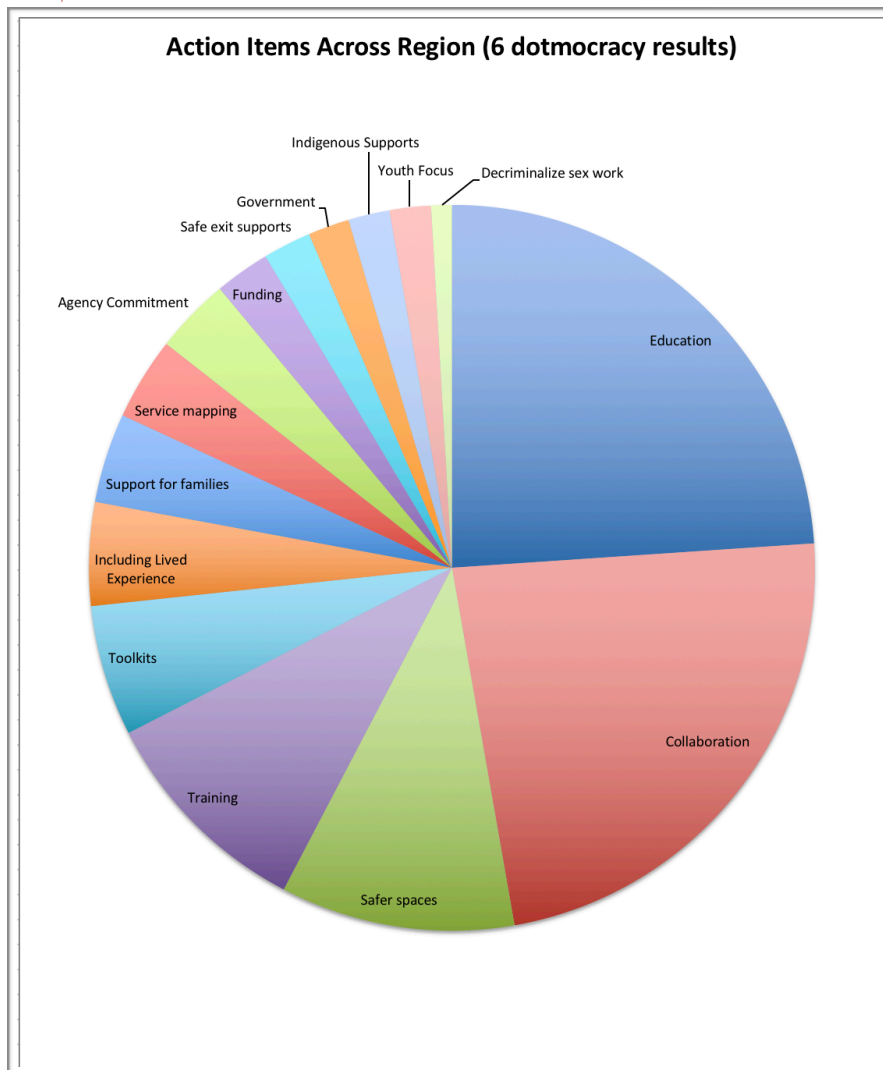
communities, Kirkland Lake and Cochrane, emphasized gaps in resources as they are comparatively under-served. Participants in Manitoulin Island similarly addressed gaps.

Graph 2: LOCAL DISCUSSION THEMES



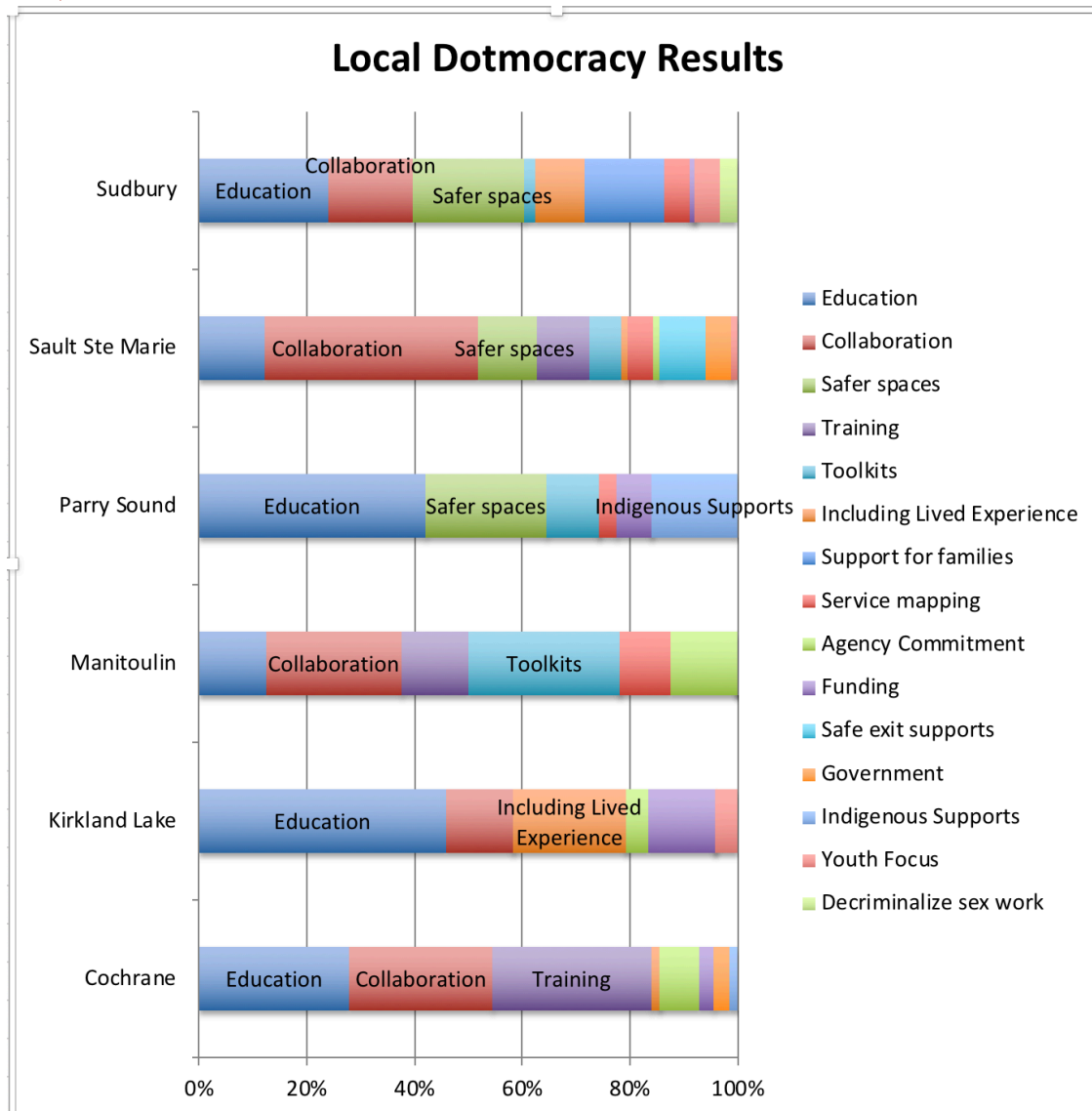
The dotmocracy results across six locations are depicted below in Chart 3. Across the region, lack of awareness was identified as a priority, and education for the general public, parents, school children, and training for service providers were the top priorities. Education for the general public was focused on raising awareness that human trafficking is not just a big southern city problem. However, the content of that education for the general public was relatively under-specified. That said, Indigenous participants highlighted the importance of the Grandfather Teachings and addressing intergenerational trauma. Recommendations for school children were more pointed in terms of internet safety, self-esteem and “stranger danger” (however, research shows that trafficking may be perpetrated by someone the victim knows).

Graph 3: REGIONAL DOTMOCRACY



The second priority was the collaboration between agencies within locations as well as across the region. Notably, the subsequent top choices all fit under the mantle of collaboration: collaboration for the creation of safe(r) spaces, including human trafficking specific safe houses, collaboration for training, the creation of service provider toolkits, and service mapping. We also see desire to include persons with lived experience in these collaborations and to offer support for the families of trafficked individuals.

Graph 4: LOCAL DOTMOCRACY



Priorities differed somewhat across workshop sites, as per Chart 4 above. We hypothesize that demands for education are related to degrees of awareness of and exposure to human trafficking. For instance, there was a less pressing need for education in the larger centers of Sudbury and Sault Ste Marie, which have had more human trafficking exposure, supports, and

training. Manitoulin Island's top request for toolkits and collaboration matched quite neatly with identified gaps in service. Interestingly, in Kirkland Lake, participants noted that service mapping was not a useful exercise because there are so few services in the area. In Sudbury, the categories of including lived experience, support for families and the decriminalization of sex work featured in discussions due to participation from the Sex Work Advisory Network of Sudbury (SWANS) and a participant whose child had been trafficked.

### 3. NEXT STEPS:

The next stage of NORAHT's project is the "action phase" of participatory action research. We are planning **three conferences for Fall 2018** in order to discuss findings with participants, hold breakout sessions for the development of toolkits and other resources, and continue to build awareness and networks. Please save these dates: **Sault Ste Marie: Sept 26-29** (hosted by Hope Alliance, PACT grandmothers, and Missinabie Cree First Nation), **Timmins: Nov. 8** and **Sudbury: Nov. 19**. Stay tuned for further details!

We commend the tremendous work being done by service providers across the region despite, in many cases, the lack of resources or mandates. However, we also note several challenges that emerged during the workshops. We encountered tensions regarding the autonomy of sex work, a lack of understanding or agreement as to what constitutes human trafficking, the use of problematic terminology such as "girls" and "victims" that denies people's agency, self-determination and empowerment, and a vital need for resources, including culturally specific resources.

One of the key lessons we have drawn from this opening phase of the project is the importance of further including lived experience. Thus, we seek more people who are willing to share their stories and advice regarding human trafficking and/or the sex trade. We hope to develop educational resources and indicator tools (both top requests) that are sensitive to the nuances of sex work as well as the unique circumstances of the north. Our findings also provide evidence of a clear need for safer spaces, such as a house dedicated to survivors of human trafficking, in the region.

As we collectively enter the "action" phase of the project, participants might also consider ways to collaborate both locally and regionally in order to collect better human trafficking data and to continue to share resources and information, especially those based in Indigenous culture and teachings. NORAHT can facilitate some of these processes. However, long-term sustainability of any efforts requires community-based self-determination, ownership and commitment at the grassroots level.

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# NORTH BAY

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## Community Engagement Session Report

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### North Bay Community Engagement Session June 26, 2017

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**Number in Attendance:** 15

Indigenous participants ~5

**Participants with Lived  
experience:** 1

**Organizational Encounters  
with human trafficking:**  
Everyone\*

**Types of organizations:**  
Victim Services, Women's  
Shelter, Sexual Assault  
Centre, Correctional  
Services of Canada.

**NORAHT Team:** Brenda,  
Elder Donna, Gina, Jenny,  
Kat, Lanyan, Megan,  
Rosemary, Serena

### *Summary:*

Participants prioritized the need for data/information, education and awareness, and frontline resources. Gaps in resources highlighted the lack of: safe spaces, adequate transportation, and other services over a large geographical area. Participants recommended a variety of databases to allow for collaboration over the large area. The needs of trafficked people were discussed and the importance of proper support was emphasized. Participants repeatedly called for education programs and awareness campaigns for the general public, health care and other service providers, and hotel, taxi and other related businesses. Participants also noted issues around policing and the legal system, especially how these systems may not be productive or helpful to trafficked people.

\*Everyone in attendance indicated they had encountered human trafficking. Yet, there was a lot of discussion about indicators and identifying, so it is not clear how participants were defining or understanding the cases they'd encountered and identified as human trafficking. This is something we should have explored further during the day. There was a lot of discussion about how to get people to disclose that they are being trafficked. But it was our

sense that these conversations were somewhat misguided: perhaps it is better to focus on how to support without disclosure, particularly when someone may not identify as being trafficked but has asked for services. However, there were also helpful discussions on existing resource in North Bay, such as the Hospital's mobile crisis unit for mental health, the ER, and the Health Unit's sexual health services, where health care providers could identify potentially trafficked people using indicators and then provide them with information.

## *Top Three Themes of Discussion:*

### *1. Gaps in Resources:*

- i. Huge geographical area: hard to collaborate due to area, barriers to providing services to remote and inaccessible areas, transportation issues
- ii. Databases needed: safe housing database, network system to connect what each service provider can offer to survivors, a real-time provincial database for stats on trafficking and a central database
- iii. Need a specific, direct phone line, not just 9/11, or dedicated dispatcher
- iv. Lack of general education for public (signage in highways and washrooms), specific training for service providers (list of indicators, collaboration for common referral process)
- v. Lack of safe spaces: no long term transitional housing, safe spaces to disclose, shelters, culturally appropriate services, victim protection services or peer support services available
- vi. Criminal justice system: Court based services are lengthy and people may not want to provide information; police services may have no training and there is no dedicated team

### *2. Needs of Trafficked person:*

- i. Proper support: number to call and places where survivors can access services and resources, patient-focused and trauma-focused care, 24/7 care, needing a specific line, not just 911, safe space to disclose, immediate response, especially if going through the area (transient) and ability to trust service providers

### *3. Indicators/Identifying Trafficking:*

- i. Health care providers: need ER screening tool on abuse and human trafficking, where most non-direct disclosures are made, need to be alone to make disclosure but the ER usually does not have this capacity
- ii. Service providers: calls for more information on how traffickers are luring/recruiting to recognize human trafficking, profiles on perpetrators, indicators and tools to ID
- iii. Look for tattoos, visual signs

\*\* No dotmocracy in North Bay

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# SUDBURY

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## Community Engagement Session Report

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### **Sudbury Community Engagement Session June 28, 2017**

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**Number in Attendance:** 32

Indigenous participants ~

**Participants with Lived  
experience:** 3

**Organizational Encounters  
with human trafficking:**

numerous people from multiple organizations have come across trafficked people

**Types of organizations:**

Victim Services, Sex workers, Sexual Assault Centre, City of Sudbury (Social Services, Immigration), Mental Health and Addictions, Crime Stoppers, AIDS Service Organization.

**NORAHT Team:** Brenda, Elder Donna, Gina, Jenny, Kat, Lanyan, Megan, Rosemary

### *Summary:*

Participants prioritized public education, a dedicated shelter/safe space and forming a local committee. The coding of the flip charts showed participants mentioned gaps in resources, education, and needs of a trafficked person the most. The gaps in resources focused on the lack of safe spaces, collaboration, services and technology. Education emphasized the need for public and service provider education and including voices of survivors and their families in these education efforts. The needs of a trafficked person heavily overlapped with gaps in resources, and the need to connect with their own identity and to their community. Policing and the legal system and collaboration were the next most coded.

The Dotmocracy results emphasized the need for education. The call for a human trafficking shelter in the Dotmocracy mirrors the day's discussions of the need for a dedicated space for survivors as a top need for trafficked persons and top gap in resources. We observed a lot of tensions in the room during the day with debates over sex work and challenges over the use of problematic terms like "girls" and "victims" that detract from women's agency and resilience. We

recommend that persons with lived experience be respectfully acknowledged as experts in their own lives and be provided significant space in future collaborations to address human trafficking.



## *Top Three Themes of Discussion:*

### *1. Gaps in Resources:*

- i. Safe spaces: need dedicated human trafficking shelters, accessible shelter, universal safe space symbol
- ii. Collaboration: need coalition on human trafficking, service plan/map, resource lists for referrals, communication between agencies and lead agency
- iii. Services: need available counselling, emergency funding, support for youth, harm reduction, human trafficking specific intake forms, transitional services, screening tools, peer coordination
- iv. Technology: need database and use social media to market safe spaces

### *2. Education:*

- i. Public services and service industry education: educate hotels and taxis on human trafficking, engage and educate municipal government
- ii. Public education: information sessions for parents, educating community, educating populations at an increased risk of being trafficked, education in schools, education and support for parents of trafficked people
- iii. Including experiences of survivors and their families in education

### *3. Needs of trafficked person (significant overlap with gaps in resources):*

- i. Address the male population; encourage to come forward for support
- ii. Need more accessible services; funding, safe spaces, counselling, harm reduction strategies, triage services, client centred approach
- iii. Criminal justice system: decriminalizing sex work can lead to disclosures, and training for police officers will decrease chances of getting charged
- iv. Need for self-identity connection, returning to community and family

## *Dotmocracy Top Three Results:*

*1. Education (21)* (community, public, kids, parents with children being actively trafficked or prevention)

*2. Shelter/dedicated space (18)*

*3. Collaboration (14)*

- i. Create a local committee/ People with lived experience on committee (10)
- ii. Communication between agencies (4)

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# SAULT STE. MARIE

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## Community Engagement Session Report

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### Sault Ste. Marie Community Engagement Session October 4, 2017

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#### Number in Attendance:

37

Indigenous participants ~

7

#### Participants with Lived experience: 0

#### Organizational Encounters with human trafficking: Unknown

#### Types of organizations:

Victim Services (Algoma),  
Women's Shelters  
(Pauline's Place,  
Mississauga Women's  
Shelter, Women in Crisis),  
John Howard Society of  
SSM, Family Shelter (Nimkii  
Naebkawegan Family  
Crisis Shelter), Board  
Member Women in Crisis,  
PACT Grandmothers,  
Ontario Native Women's  
Association (ONWA) ),  
Corporation of the City of  
Sault Ste. Marie,  
Communities Partnership,

#### Summary:

The flip chart discussion and the dotmocracy had similar important themes. Participants emphasized the importance of collaboration, gaps in resources and education. Discussions on collaboration focused on partnerships between service providers and the need for coordinated services including service mapping and common intake forms. Community collaboration was discussed in two distinct ways. Participants discussed the need for connections between service providers and communities, as well as the need for partnerships within their own communities. The importance of collaborating with government and police services was also mentioned.

Gaps in resources focused on deficiencies in education, collaboration, available safe spaces and fulfilling the needs of trafficked persons. The inadequacy of long term supports was noted, with participants citing the need for stable housing and more resources for continual assistance. For education, participants advocated for awareness in the general public and school children populations. The importance of training of first responders, people in professional sectors, and service providers was also discussed. Participants discussed the importance of reaching out to trafficked people to educate survivors about community resources and safety planning. Immigrants and newcomers were identified as another important population to educate to increase awareness of human trafficking. Other themes mentioned frequently were indicators and identifying, training, policing and the legal system and housing.

In the Dotmocracy, the top three themes voted for were collaboration, education and training. Collaboration included votes for service providers to partner with each other, for service providers to partner with communities, and for communities to create their own centralized plans and responses. Votes for education focused on general public

**Sault Ste. Marie  
Community Engagement  
Session October 4, 2017**

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**Types of organizations:**

Social Services (SSM).  
Uniting Three Fires Against  
Violence (from Michigan,  
USA), Ministry of the  
Attorney General, Ministry  
of Children and Youth  
Services, Metis Nation of  
Ontario, Probation, Ministry  
of Children and Youth  
Services.

**NORAHT Team:** Brenda,  
Elder Donna, Jenny, Kat,  
Rebecca, Rosemary

awareness. The theme of training concentrated on educating service providers and first responders.

*Top Three Themes of Discussion:*

*1. Collaboration:*

- i. Agency/service provider collaboration: coordinated services, same entry form, network, safety planning with survivors
- ii. Community collaboration: community contact with service provider human trafficking coalition that will be established, support systems, safe access, multi-disciplinary wrap-around approaches, schools, neighbourhood walks, relationship building programs, community response plan, service sector workers and neighbourhood resource centres as points of contact
- iii. Government collaboration
- iv. Police collaboration: police/CAS/ER in hospitals, access information already out there (SSMPS, OPP, VWAP, APS)

*2. Gaps in Services:*

- i. Education: programming and training for communities, agencies, and families, trauma informed staff, learn about red flags
- ii. Collaboration: community response plans, coordinated entry into the system (same forms, one stop shop), one community contact-coordinator, regional coalition, provincial partnerships, service mapping, partner with the HOPE Alliance, multi-disciplinary wrap around car
- iii. Safe spaces: safe house dedicated to human trafficking, safe and affordable housing
- iv. Needs of a trafficked person: Long term supports for survivors, better policies, need accurate data collection and best practices research, more accountability in the justice system/medical system, portable/mobile services, and a dedicated emergency number

*3. Education:*

- i. General Public: billboards, posters, discussion
- ii. School children education: sex education in schools
- iii. First responders: education on red flags (verbal and non-verbal)

- iv. Survivors: safety planning, teach independence, education of community resources
- v. Professionals (judges, doctors, lawyers, etc): mandated education
- vi. Service provider training
- vii. Immigration/newcomer awareness

## *Dotmocracy Top Three Results:*

### *1. Collaboration (33)*

- i. Involvement of other community members - not just service providers (15). Example: hotel owners, cab drivers, survivors
- ii. Get HOPE Alliance out to service providers and victims (5)
- iii. Community commitment (6)
- iv. Coordinate and identify service protocols between agencies (long-term service) (4)
- v. Community response plan - other community plans, need to be connected (network) (1)
- vi. Law enforcement (police, judicial, mayors, city council, education) - complete inclusion in the development of all this (1)
- vii. Coordination of services within the region (1)

### *2. Education (10)*

- i. Increase education about sex trafficking to the public (2)
- ii. Community presentations (2)
- iii. Neighbourhood resource centre - point of contact (2)
- iv. Continued awareness/education (2)
- v. Online billboards (1)

### *3. Training (8)*

- i. Worker training in screening / appropriate responses (7)
- ii. Educate first responders on symptoms (verbal and non-verbal), educate future first responders (police foundations and nursing students) (1)

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# MANITOULIN

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## Community Engagement Session Report

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### Manitoulin Community Engagement Session October 5, 2017

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#### Number in Attendance:

19

Indigenous participants ~

7

#### Participants with Lived experience: 1

#### Organizational Encounters with human trafficking: 0

#### Types of organizations:

Noojmowin Teg Health  
Centre, Ngwaagan Gamig  
Recovery Centre Inc.,  
Kenjgewin Teg Educational  
Institute, Probation,  
Manitoulin Family  
Resource

**NORAHT team:** Brenda,  
Elder Donna, Kat, Jenny,  
Rebecca, Rosemary.

Miigwetch to Elder  
Dolores Naponse for  
starting and ending our  
day in a good way.

#### Summary:

Participants in Little Current, Manitoulin discussed the interrelated themes of gaps in resources, education and collaboration most frequently throughout the day. The flip chart notes of the discussions focused on the lack of education and advocated for awareness amongst service providers, the general public, school children and survivors looking for support. The discussion also revealed a need for collaborative, universal tools used to screen individuals at risk. Another overlap between collaboration and gaps in resources was the call for wrap-around services that would be based on partnerships between organizations to provide support for individuals in order to make better use of existing resources. Participants additionally cited the lack of human trafficking specific supports and the need for Indigenous service providers to improve cultural awareness and incorporate traditional – holistic – healing.

Within the theme of education, there was an emphasis on collaboration for the purpose of raising awareness about human trafficking. Participants suggested partnerships with police services, Indigenous organizations and community agencies to educate the public. Prevention education, service provider training, general awareness projects and youth programs were also discussed. The importance of including the voices of people with lived experience in the creation of these programs was recognized by the participants.

The analysis from the discussion and the results of the Dotmocracy yielded similar priorities and concerns. Toolkits were voted as the most important next step with calls for a multi-sectoral screening tool and collaboration between agencies to share tools. The second priority was collaboration in terms of partnerships with communities, service providers, and potential advocates across the region. The next most voted for theme was a three-way tie between training for

service providers, general public education and having a human trafficking-specific person in each agency for training and liaising with other service providers.

### *Top Three Themes of Discussion:*

#### *1. Gaps in Resources:*

- i. Education: awareness on where to send people, what human trafficking is, school children education
- ii. Tools: multi-sectoral tool, screening tools for those at risk
- iii. Barriers to service: Stigma, corporate resistance personal comfort level, geographical location
- iv. Wrap around approach: want safe housing, to partner with the Ministry of the Status of Women (MSW), previously the Ontario Women's Directorate, link with mental health, basic needs, safety, stability, local liaison
- v. Dedicated human trafficking supports: training, housing, response system, agency, funding, experts
- vi. Insufficient numbers of First Nations staff (need to avoid burn-out)

#### *2. Education:*

- i. Prevention: education for youth, programs for self-esteem and self-respect, target vulnerable youth (CAS, group homes)
- ii. Training for service workers to identify human trafficking
- iii. Include lived experience
- iv. General awareness: outreach to the general public, lunch and learns

#### *3. Collaboration:*

- i. Networking: Victim Services set up a coalition with representatives from First Nations communities/organizations, police services, and community agencies
- ii. Supports needed: multisectoral tool, an advocate at the regional table, resources for a wrap around approach (safe housing, mental health services), natural healers, partnerships with health centres and housing options within the area and outside of it

### *Dotmocracy Top Three Results:*

#### *1. Toolkits (9)*

- i. Multi-sectoral screening tool (6)
- ii. Sharing tools to screen those at risk (health, social, etc.) that can be standardized (2)

iii. inexpensive screening tool that has indicators highlighted (1)

## 2. Collaboration (8)

- i. Partner with others (health centres, and not just those in the area, those that are connected - housing, health, etc.) (2)
- ii. Mobilize communities (1)
- iii. Partnering with others - funding (1)
- iv. Voice at regional tables, make effort to advocate this as a priority (with LHINs, etc.) (2)
- v. Continue this type of consultation (2)

## 3.a. Training (4)

- i. "Train them" (4)

## 3.b Education (4)

- i. Stronger street-level campaigns on awareness (4)

## 3.c Agency Commitment (4) i. One person focussed on HT in each organization (4)

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# KIRKLAND LAKE

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## Community Engagement Session Report

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### **Kirkland Lake Community Engagement Session October 11, 2017**

**Number in Attendance:** 14  
(2 youth, 1 Elder, 12 others  
Indigenous participants ~ 7  
(including Elder & youth

**Participants with Lived  
experience:** 0

### **Summary:**

During the day, we noted that there seemed to be some clear differences between Timmins and the Temiskaming Shores/ Kirkland Lake area due to Timmins' position on the TransCanada highway and it being a mining community. Mining results in higher than average disposable incomes for some community members while other community members, including vulnerable women, may struggle to meet the high rental rates that are geared toward those with higher incomes.

There was a strong emphasis on Indigenous culture throughout the day. Participants at this session were concerned with the intersection of diverse cultures and services and how to better manage practices and ensure safety for all people seeking

**Kirkland Lake  
Community Engagement  
Session October 11,  
2017**

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**Organizational  
Encounters with human  
trafficking:**

Pavillion Centre has had 10 instances since 2015, another participant heard of a case but it would have proceeded as a sexual assault, not human trafficking

**Types of organizations:**

CMHA Cochrane  
Timiskaming Branch,  
Ministry of Community and Social Services, Pavilion  
Women's Centre, Centre  
Passerelle pour femmes du nord de l'Ontario,  
Temiskaming Native  
Women's Support Group,  
Victim Services  
(Temiskaming and District)

**NORAHT Team:** Brenda, Jenny, Jylle, Rebecca, Rosemary.

Miigwetch to Elder Marie Boucher and Melissa Gill for starting and ending our day in a good way.

support. The discussion included the differing needs of French-speaking and Indigenous communities. The most cited theme was gaps in resources which included collaboration, safe spaces, funding, education and research. The discussion on collaboration focused on networking with local and provincial agencies, people in political office (mayors, chiefs, etc.), schools, and families. Education was cited as a collective responsibility including the general public, first responders, schools, families, industries (hospitality), communities, and self-education.

Participants voted for awareness and education as the most important next step. They called for education efforts catering to first responders, the general public, and youth. Participants also discussed education as a way to eradicate stigma and judgement. Participants noted that cultural education, along with education to eliminate stigma, can create safe spaces for Indigenous individuals seeking support. The Dotmocracy also emphasized the need for input from people with lived experience. The themes of collaboration and funding tied for the third most voted on category.

**Top Three Themes of Discussion:**

**1. Gaps in Resources:**

- i. Acknowledgement/awareness
- ii. Funding
- iii. Data and numbers
- iv. Safe spaces: transition house, culturally sensitive services (cultural training, language variety, and spiritual considerations)
- v. Collaboration: Need to hear voices of youth and survivors, coordinating committees, resource guide/service mapping, uniform strategies for each phase (recruitment, while being trafficked, while exiting the situation and support after exiting)
- vi. Discretionary power of people in charge is a barrier. We need policy, curriculum, documents, etc. to protect work we're doing, rather than leaving it up to the whim of administrators

**2. Collaboration:**

- i. Network with: those not at the session (specifically Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services), stakeholders (police services, mental health providers, schools, etc), provincial groups (ONWA, shelters, francophone, other research groups, etc.), funders, people in positions of power, schools, families



- ii. Locally developed resources: info developed here, community development

### *3. Education:*

- i. First responders, public, youth, schools, hospitality industry, families, communities, self-educate (collective responsibility)

### *Dotmocracy Top Three Results:*

#### *1. Awareness/Education (11)*

- i. Awareness/education: first responders, public, youth (3)
- ii. Acknowledge there is a problem (2)
- iii. Talk about it more (2)
- iv. Remove judgement (2)
- v. Create culturally safe places - open up, talk (2)
- vi. Hear from people with lived experience (5)

#### *2. Collaboration (3)*

- i. Networking (2)
- ii. Locally developed resources - info developed here, community development (1)
- iii. Mobilizing those not at the table (Child and Family Services) (0)

#### *3. Funding (3)*

- i. Government funding, remove barriers (2)
- ii. Sustainability of services - not year to year funding (1)

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# COCHRANE

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## Community Engagement Session Report

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**Cochrane  
Community Engagement  
Session October 12,  
2017**

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**Number in Attendance:**

24

Indigenous participants ~

7

### *Summary:*

In Cochrane there was a strong desire to learn more and to help raise awareness. Participants from Timmins strongly suspected a link between human trafficking and the drug trade in Timmins, and cited trading sex for drugs as a common experience in Timmins. Survival sex was also cited many times with regard to lack of affordable housing. Some participants noted that it is

**Cochrane  
Community Engagement  
Session October 12,  
2017**

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**Organizational  
Encounters with human  
trafficking:** 8-10 survivors  
encountered (including by  
Centre Passerelle and  
Cochrane Victim Services)

**Types of organizations:**  
Smooth Rock Falls Detox,  
North Cochrane Addiction,  
Probation, Women in  
Crisis Timmins, Cochrane  
Ininev Friendship Centre,  
Aboriginal People's  
Alliance, Metis Nation of  
Ontario, Centre Passerelle  
Timmins, Victim Services  
Cochrane-Smooth Rock  
Falls-Kapuskasing-Hearst

**NORAHT Team:** Brenda,  
Jenny, Jyllele, Rebecca,  
Rosemary

Miigwetch to Elder  
Madeleine Vincent for  
starting and ending our  
day in a good way.

quite difficult to distinguish between who is a sex worker, who is being exploited in the sex trade, and who is being trafficked. Unsurprisingly, then, training in risk factors and indicators was the top request in the dotmocracy.

In general, participants spoke of Cochrane as a under-serviced area, lacking in safe and affordable housing, transportation and culturally appropriate services. The lack of resources in the community means a focus on acute stage rather than rehabilitation or longer term planning. Resource gaps included identifying trafficking too late to get the police involved because the trafficked individual moved on. A lack of adequate, long term or specialized services may force a survivor to disclose multiple times. Barriers to service include stigma, racism (specifically in hospitals and police services), lack of adequate housing and displacement, shame, lack of knowledge about services, lack of culturally appropriate services, and lack of Indigenous staff members within service providers and the police department. Participants repeatedly mentioned the importance of education for service providers and the general public as well as collaboration between regions and service providers.

### *Top Three Themes of Discussion:*

#### *1. Education:*

- i. Awareness/education for MPs, community leaders, service providers and the general public.
- ii. Education as a way to destigmatize and gain access to funding.
- iii. Suggestions for education tools were pamphlets, lunch and learns, billboards, common PowerPoint presentations, posters in truck stops.

#### *2. Collaboration:*

- i. Calls for collaboration with grassroots people, community executives, outside organizations and district service providers.
- ii. Priority of forming committees in immediate area and then forming regional committees.
- iii. Collaboration reduces need to fight for funding.

#### *3. Gaps in Resources:*

- i. Lack of transportation, safety plans, worker training, statistics (and therefore funding), night and weekend patrols, easily identifiable services.

## *Dotmocracy Top Three Results:*

### *1. Training (20)*

- i. Specific training, front-line workers - what are the risks and indicators? (15)
- ii. Train people who can travel to the person in need (3)
- iii. Training on resources, handouts on harm reduction approach information (2)

### *2. Collaboration (19)*

- i. Form committees in the area, then develop regional committees - services included (5)
- ii. Form committees to address this (1)
- iii. Collaborate with grassroots people already working on this (3)
- iv. Form advisory committees: local area, then regionally (3)
- v. Existing committee - Your Voice Matters - letter writing on experience with the system, develop report to go to officials, ministry considered it lobbying so they cannot do this anymore (2)
- vi. Reach out to Chiefs, Elders, knowledge keepers, representatives from the communities (1)
- vii. Reach out to (police) officers for these services/sessions (4)

### *3. Education and Awareness (18)*

- i. More community awareness about HT - what does it look like? (18)

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# DOKIS FIRST NATION

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## Community Engagement Session Report

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### **Dokis First Nation Community Engagement Session October 26, 2017**

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#### **Number in Attendance:**

12

Indigenous participants 12

#### **Participants with Lived experience: 0**

#### **Organizational Encounters with human trafficking: 0**

### *Summary:*

Dokis was a very welcoming community with a surprisingly high turnout. This session partly functioned as a public education event due to the presence of community members, not just service providers, and therefore included a presentation titled "Human Trafficking Overview." Some participants voiced concern that neighbouring tourists/cottagers might kidnap Dokis children. Research suggests that this seems an unlikely scenario based, perhaps, on "Hollywoodized" depictions of human trafficking. We recommend further education regarding the complexities of human trafficking and sexual exploitation including, as participants recommended, finding survivors willing to share their stories.

**Dokis First Nation  
Community Engagement  
Session October 26, 2017**

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**Types of organizations:**

Dokis First Nation admin.

**NORAHT Team:** Rosemary

Miigwetch to Elder Beverly Restoule for starting and ending our day in a good way.

Participants at Dokis prioritized education and public awareness, including workshops on internet safety. Cultural concerns raised by participants included the importance of language, the need for Indigenous peoples, especially children, to learn their history, the importance of reconnecting to traditional practices, and the lack of connection between children in the community and grandmothers. Alongside cultural knowledge, participants emphasized community vigilance and tight-knittedness as important means of prevention. Finally, participants noted plans for the community to get its own family violence shelter, which could perhaps also be used as a safe space from human trafficking.

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## PARRY SOUND

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### Community Engagement Session Report

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**Parry Sound  
Community Engagement  
Session November 24,  
2017**

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**Number in Attendance:**

13

Indigenous participants ~  
7

**Participants with Lived  
experience:** 0

**Organizational  
Encounters with human  
trafficking:** unknown

*Summary:*

In Parry Sound, discussion covered the recurring themes of Indigenous culture, education, gaps in resources and needs of trafficked persons. Participants discussed the risks leading to human trafficking and how some risk factors disproportionately impact Indigenous populations. Participants would like to incorporate medicine wheel teachings into service programs and work plans. Participants from Native Horizons Treatment Centre in New Credit First Nation who travelled to Parry Sound for the day shared examples and suggestions for including Indigenous culture, from service provider work community engagement. These models are available on our [website](#).

Suggestions about education include educating Indigenous leadership on human trafficking as a community problem not individual incidents; instructing the general public on risks and indicators, peer training for survivors; and education for youth, landlords, and the hospitality industry. Discussion of gaps in resources focused on the need for safe spaces, funding, and various supports. Participants highlighted the need for aftercare,

**Parry Sound  
Community Engagement  
Session November 24,  
2017**

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**Types of organizations:**

Muskoka Parry Sound  
Sexual Assault Services,  
First Nations and Inuit  
Health Branch (Health  
Canada), Parry Sound  
District Social Services  
Administration Board  
Homelessness Prevention  
Program, Wasauksing First  
Nation, Enaahutig Healing  
Lodge & Learning Centre,  
Muskoka Victim Services,  
Native Horizons Treatment  
Centre, Esprit Place Family  
Resource Centre

**NORAHT Team:** Jenny,  
Jyllelle, Rebecca, Rosemary

Miigwetch to Elder Joyce  
Tabodondung for starting  
and ending our day in a  
good way.

an adequate response system and outreach education about available resources. Participants identified the needs of trafficked persons as having access to safe spaces, diverse social connections, and resources for education. Service providers also acknowledged the need for adequate trauma responses.

The Dotmocracy analysis demonstrated that participants want education on human trafficking. The votes for education spanned diverse categories, including general public and community awareness, service provider training and educating leadership. Safe spaces was the next most voted for category. Importantly, participants focused on the need for housing and shelters to be in place before reaching out to trafficked people. Participants voted for Indigenous supports as the third theme and emphasized support for Indigenous service providers, community healing circles, and medicine wheel teachings.

*Top Three Themes of Discussion:*

*1. Indigenous Culture:*

i. Services Required:

a. Communities: community healing circles, community cultural education, how to deal with historical trauma, Jim Dumont's teachings on the Life Road, community education sessions

b. Service providers: holistic view to care (case management, contracts with the person and service providers), someone to manage the circle of care, culturally sensitive services, service worker care (Elders and resources)

c. Communities and service providers: medicine wheel teachings (Thunderbird resources), Tradition Resource Teams (rebuild culture and wellness)

d. Contributing factors to likelihood of being trafficked  
proximity to the 401 corridor, addiction, mental health,  
homelessness, opiate crisis are things that disproportionately  
affect Indigenous people

## *2. Education:*

- i. Educate: leadership: showing connection of the dots - not just an individual problem, it is a community problem
- ii. Peer training for survivors
- iii. General Public: educate on how to identify human trafficking and risks that increase likelihood of someone being trafficked
- iv. Youth education: teach boys how to treat women, school presentations/resources
- v. Educate landlords, hospitality industry, etc.

## *3. Gaps in Resources and Needs of Trafficked Persons (tie)*

- i. Support: safe spaces (shelters, housing, hospitals, transition homes), funding, aftercare (professionally, personally and socially), response system, outreach education to trafficked people about resources available
- ii. Safe spaces: residences, transition houses, housing, shelters
- iii. Connections: with service providers (build trust/rapport), programs/resources, community, family members
- iv. Support and resources for education
- v. Trauma responses

## *Dotmocracy Top Three Results:*

### *1. Education (12)*

- i. Create discussion and awareness (7)
  - a. Education tools: what makes people at risk
  - b. How did we/you get here
  - c. Educating leadership on this (include stories, data, options, roles) (ex. what is wellness and how to achieve it; showing connection of the dots - not just an individual problem, it is a community problem) (3)
  - d. More conversation with staff and service providers and with community members (2)
- ii. Educating leadership on this (include stories, data, options, roles) (ex. what is wellness and how to achieve it; showing connection of the dots - not just an individual problem, it is a community problem) (3)
- iii. More conversation with staff and service providers and with community members (2)

## *Safe Space (7)*

- i. Safe place (6)
  - a. Bringing awareness but need somewhere for people to go
  - b. Housing is the biggest issue
  - c. Linkages with others where safe houses are in existence
- ii. Determine if safe spaces already exist (shelters) (1)

## *3. Indigenous Supports (5)*

- i. Workers also need to be looked after: need elders and others after them, may be triggered, they need space, safety and resources (3)
- ii. Healing circles on community level (1)
- iii. Medicine wheel teachings (Thunderbird resources) (1)
  - a. Culture and wellness
  - b. Annual cycles and importance to Indigenous people
  - c.. Hands-on cultural teachings
  - d. Put it into work plans

**Written by:** Northeastern Ontario Research Alliance on Human Trafficking (NORAHT)

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The Northeastern Ontario Research Alliance on Human Trafficking ([NORAHT](#)) is a partnership between [Amelia Rising Sexual Assault Centre of Nipissing](#), the [Anishinabek Nation: Union of Ontario Indians](#), the [AIDS Committee of North Bay and Area](#), and [Nipissing University](#).



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