

# NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO RESEARCH ALLIANCE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

## News:

We are pleased to announce that members of our team will be presenting a paper entitled “Research as Allyship: Reflections on the Northeastern Ontario Research Alliance on Human Trafficking” at the Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences, hosted by the University of Regina, in May 2018. In this paper, we present findings from our community engagement sessions to argue that the complexities of human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Northeastern Ontario require greater attention and resources specific to the region’s diverse Indigenous communities and unique geography. This conference paper will be made available once it is completed.

For more information & updates visit: NORAHT’s website:  
<https://noraht.nipissingu.ca/>

Email us: [noraht@nipissingu.ca](mailto:noraht@nipissingu.ca)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CanadaNORAHT/>



The Northeastern Ontario Research Alliance on Human Trafficking (NORAHT) is a partnership between Amelia Rising Sexual Assault Centre of Nipissing, the Union of Ontario Indians: Anishinabek Nation, the AIDS Committee of North Bay and Area and Nipissing University that formed in 2013 to examine human trafficking and sexual exploitation in northeastern Ontario specifically. The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada generously supports this research. We acknowledge Nipissing First Nation, on whose traditional territory we are located.

### *Invitation to Participate in Survey on Human Trafficking for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation*

We have designed an online survey for folks and agencies who were unable to attend our sessions in person. The survey questions replicate questions asked during the workshop sessions. Here’s a link to the survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KHWC2FF>. We are especially interested in hearing from people with lived experience, so please share this link widely. Survey responses will further help us to understand patterns of human trafficking within our communities as well as to identify gaps in services, which will help to shape policies and resources available in our region.

## What Do We Need?

### Top Three Picks

During our “dotmocracy” exercise, participants brainstormed on what was needed to address human trafficking and then voted by placing sticky dots next to ideas they saw on the brainstorming flip-charts.

#### **North Bay:**

Shelter/dedicated space  
Education about human trafficking  
Create local committee which includes people with lived experience

#### **Sudbury:**

Shelter Space  
Education for public as a whole Create local committee

#### **Cochrane:**

Community awareness about human trafficking  
Specific training for front-line workers  
Develop regional committees

#### **Kirkland Lake:**

Need to hear from people with lived experience  
Awareness/education for 1st responders, public, youth, etc Remove judgement, networking, addressing root causes, etc.

#### **Little Current:**

Multi-sectoral tool to screen for those at risk  
Dedicated staff in each organization  
Street level campaigns

#### **Parry Sound:**

Create discussion & awareness safe space,  
Support for workers, education  
Visual data

#### **Sault Ste. Marie:**

Community member involvement  
Safe house  
Worker training & ongoing support for victims

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### *Human Trafficking in Northeastern Ontario*

NORAHT continues to analyze the data collected from our participatory-action-research (PAR) community engagement sessions which took place in 2017 in North Bay, Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, Little Current, Kirkland Lake, Dokis First Nation and Parry Sound. Sessions were attended by a wide array of folks including persons with lived experience and front line workers. The focus of these session was consistent with our aim to: 1) understand patterns of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation in Northeastern Ontario; 2) Identify service gaps and barriers for persons who have been trafficked; and 3) Recommend policy measures for the prevention of human trafficking. We are currently in the beginning stages of our analysis and continue to work toward publishing our report. We continue to work on full content analysis in order to determine key themes and priorities. We will share this information with participants for feedback and collaborative determination of next steps once. We aim to have this information available for the end of June or beginning of July.

### *Safe Shelters/Safe Spaces Identified as Priority*

Participants in NORAHT’s PAR community-engagement sessions emphasized the need for safe spaces and safe shelters located within Northeastern Ontario designated specifically to support folks who have experienced human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Notably, participants reported that safe spaces are required to support folks across all gender and sexuality spectrums. Participants indicated that support programs should be guided by trauma-informed practices and must be attentive to the unique needs of folks across this vast northern region. Participants also identified lack of funding as a barrier to establishing safe shelters in Northeastern Ontario.

### *Building a Regional Network Identified as Priority*

Participants indicated the importance of generating opportunities for further collaboration among folks with lived experience, service providers and community members. Participants in all eight communities expressed interest in building a regional coalition to address human trafficking.