
COCHRANE

Community Engagement Session Report

Cochrane Community Engagement Session October 12, 2017

Number in Attendance: 24
Indigenous participants ~ 7

**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 Innew
Friendship Centre,
Aboriginal People's Alliance,
Metis Nation of Ontario,
Centre Passerelle Timmins,
Victim Services Cochrane-
Smooth Rock Falls-
Kapusksing-Hearst

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

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

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 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)