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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