



MA MAWI WI CHI ITATA CENTRE
We all work together to help one another.

Law-Enforcement Conference 2024

Prosecuting Demand: Deterring Sex Buying and Exploitation

March 5th + 6th, 2024 Winnipeg (Fort Garry Hotel)

This national conference will bring together leading law enforcement experts to focus on the demand for commercial sex as the main driver for sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

Join us to connect with other police officers, crown prosecutors, policy makers, and community agencies from across Canada. We will discuss legislative and policy action, effective criminal justice responses, investment, and the political will needed to address sexual exploitation and human trafficking. We will hear compelling testimonies from Indigenous leaders, survivors, and their family members and how to take action.

For more information about the conference and to register:

[Law Enforcement Conference “Prosecuting Demand - Deterring Sex Buying and Exploitation” - EventCamp Services](#)

Contact Ree Dion (EventCamp): radion@eventcamp.ca

About the EmpowerMen Project:

We engage men and boys to prevent sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of women, girls and 2SLGBTQ + individuals. We activate individual men and communities through education, online engagement, law enforcement, support services and research to challenge the cultural norms of sexual exploitation. We believe that men play a crucial role in this work to promote the health of our communities.

We are part of the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre Inc. and are located on Treaty 1 territory in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The MaMaWi Centre is the grandmother in the Winnipeg family of community service providers. She was established in 1984 to reclaim Indigenous people's inherent role and responsibility as the caregivers for Indigenous children and families. We are a community mandated, Indigenous directed and supported family support service organization delivering community-based programs and services to Indigenous children, youth and families living in Winnipeg. We are a leader in addressing sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. You can visit empowermen.ca and mamawi.com for more information.

Contact Ibbi Zaid (Communications Coordinator): izaid@mamawi.com

Conference Speakers

(as of Nov 7th, 2023)

We are excited to have the following speakers present at our conference and are working on adding more incredible presenters to our line up. We are looking forward to inspiring conversations, learning, and connecting to address the demand that causes human trafficking and sexual exploitation.



Dr. Janine Benedet K.C. (Peter A. Allard School of Law)

Janine Benedet is Professor of Law at the Allard School of Law, UBC. Her research focuses on legal responses to men's sexual violence against women and girls, including sexual assault, prostitution and pornography. With Isabel Grant, she has published numerous articles on the sexual abuse of women with mental disabilities. She is a frequent presenter at judicial education conferences and an Associate Editor of the Criminal Reports.

Professor Benedet has an LL.B. (1993) from UBC and completed an LL.M. (1995) and S.J.D. (2003) at the University of Michigan Law School. She clerked for Justice Frank Iacobucci at the Supreme Court of Canada and practised law at Heenan Blaikie in Toronto. She was a member of the faculty at Osgoode Hall Law School from 1999-2005.

Professor Benedet is a member of the bar of British Columbia and has appeared before trial and appellate courts as intervener counsel *pro bono* in a number of cases involving prostitution and sexual violence against women. She has testified before House of Commons and Senate Committees on laws relating to human trafficking and the commercial sex trade. In 2020, she was awarded the designation of Queen's Counsel.



Sergeant Andrea Scott (Winnipeg Police Service)

Andrea is a 23-year member of the Winnipeg Police Service. She has spent time in a variety of roles within the WPS including Uniform operations and Investigations. She currently manages the Counter Exploitation and Missing Persons Unit and is the Amber Alert Coordinator for the service. Andrea is married with 2 daughters and enjoys coaching and travelling.



Detective Peter Hlbocan (ALERT Alberta)

I have over 18 years of policing experience. I have worked in patrol in Edmonton's South Division, Southeast Division and Downtown Division. I was promoted in 2015 and assigned to supervise Downtown Division patrol. From patrol I moved to Investigative Response Team. For the past three years, I have been a member of Human Trafficking Counter Exploitation Unit (HTCEU) where I have taken part in multiple covert operations, and I am now the coordinator of all covert operations for the HTCEU. I am also the coordinator for the STOP program. I have taken on the role of the primary investigator, the affiant, and the file coordinator on several major case management investigations. Several of these investigations required HTCEU to travel to the different jurisdictions and required liaising with other law enforcement agencies.



Detective Jared Ruecker (ALERT Alberta)

I am currently in my 16th year of policing with the Edmonton Police Service. I have worked in patrol in West Division (Edmonton), later transferring to the Specialized Traffic Apprehension Team conducting interdiction, dual purpose traffic stops, relating to the low and mid level drug investigations. I was promoted to the Organized Crime and Gang Enforcement Unit (OCGE) with Combined Forces Specialized Enforcement Unit (CFSEU) with Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT). I was apart of that unit over four years conducting organized crime and drug enforcement investigations, involved in major case management roles, traveling inter provincially. I transferred to Human Trafficking in February 2023, where I was drawn to the need of supporting our community in combating sexual exploitation and advocating for victims. I have taken on the role as a primary investigator on several investigation, authored warrants as the affiant and managed through file coordinating. I am heavily involved in school presentations and community work in attempts to provide awareness for law enforcement and the public.



Ghyslaine Vallières (Longueuil Police SPAL, QC)

Since he joined the police in 2000, Officer Vallières has developed multiple projects in relation to sexual exploitation, including the following:

MOBILISATION, prevention of street gang criminal activities in schools (from 2011 to 2014);

ÉQUIPE INTÉGRÉE, innovative project for the investigators of the SPAL, which aims to support women who wish to get out of the sexual exploitation environment (from 2018 to 2023);

C³ESSES, program based on the John School model, which stands out due to a distinct philosophy as well as an effort to create men's behavioural change in a sustainable way.

Around the same time (2007 to 2014), Officer Vallières developed multiple training programs for: 1) teaching staff and school directors to detect and identify signs of street gang activities and signs of recruitment of young girls; 2) bus drivers of Longueuil area's

public transportation sector to help police officers combat street gangs on the ground; 3) hotel staff (with the Montreal Police), which teaches what to detect and how to react in the presence of signs of sexual exploitation in this kind of establishment.

Officer Vallières was invited to testify before the Senate Committee on Bill C-452. In 2020, he spoke before the Parliament Special Committee on the Sexual Exploitation of Minors and submitted a brief on behalf of the SPAL where he recommended a new approach which targets the consumers of sexual services.

In March 2022, he received a Senate Medal from Senator Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu. The medal recognized *“the commitment and dedication of Officer Vallières in his fight against sexual exploitation, which often drove him to go beyond his responsibilities and professional obligations”*.

Since 2021 the Minister of Justice of Quebec has been collaborating with the SPAL to implement a pilot project in order to assess the efficacy of the C³ESSES program. In May 2023, Officer Vallières presented the C³ESSES project to a group of senators and federal elected representatives in Ottawa.



Staff Sergeant Tara Clelland (RCMP D Division)

S/Sgt. Tara Clelland has 25 years of service with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. She currently works in “D” Division Major Crime Services where she oversees 8 Investigational Support Teams that include the High Risk Sex Offender Unit, Violent Crime Analysis, Internet Child Exploitation, Child Abuse, Cyber Crime, Legal Application Support, Interview Team, and Polygraph. She is a Violent Crime Analysis Specialist, with extensive experience investigating sexually motivated crimes. Tara has worked in a variety of urban, rural and First Nation communities throughout the province. She is an alumnus of the United States “International Visitor Leadership Program” within the human trafficking portfolio. She has collaborated with investigators, survivors, and community service providers from 20 countries around the world to work towards the eradication of human trafficking. Tara is passionate about the education and prevention of exploitation in all forms. She is dedicated to raising public awareness, giving victims and survivors a voice, and holding perpetrators accountable for these horrific crimes. She is a member of multiple working groups and committees within Manitoba and is the RCMP provincial human trafficking coordinator.



Stephanie Harland (Manitoba Justice)

Stephanie articulated with Legal Aid Manitoba doing criminal defence work and spent a short amount of time in private practice before joining Manitoba Justice as a Crown Attorney in 2013. Since then, she has prosecuted hundreds of cases, including the case of *R. v. Alcorn* in the Court of Queen's Bench. She is currently specializing in youth prosecutions within Winnipeg but has worked in a variety of units. She has prosecuted everything from impaired driving to domestic violence homicides and worked with Winnipeg Police Service, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and other regional police forces.



Anisha Saddler

I am a Black woman who moved to Winnipeg at a young age. I experienced culture shock and racism. Due to this, I was ashamed of being Black and hated myself for it and did everything in my power to fit in. My parents were strict and due to their methods of discipline (being beaten), I was placed in foster care. I ran from every home I was placed and at the age of 16 I was living independently. During that time, I became an exotic dancer and a crack addict. I was exploited sexually for over 20 years. I was also abducted and now suffer from PTSD. However, I am passionate about sharing my story of overcoming these obstacles and rebuilding my life.



Michelle Abel

Michelle is a survivor of Familial Trafficking and Abuse and a staunch advocate for the exploited, marginalized, and oppressed. She has been working in providing direct support to victims and survivors, speaking at conferences and facilitates training on Familial Trafficking. Bridge2Future is a non-profit that the primary mission is research, advocacy and policy advice against Generational Trauma, Intimate Partner Violence and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children. Michelle has submitted Briefs to different Committees in the Canadian House of Commons, United Kingdom House of Commons and advocated for legislation in the United States Congress.



Hennes Doltze (EmpowerMen Project)

Hennes leads the EmpowerMen Project (MaMaWi Centre) with a focus on engaging men to prevent sexual exploitation and trafficking. He has a degree in social work and not-profit management and has worked in different positions in Canada and Germany in the mental health field, child welfare and criminal justice. He has worked with many men in a sex buyer accountability and domestic violence program. He has seen many men make positive changes when given the space to explore their reasons and the impact to buy sexual acts. Hennes regularly presents at trainings for law-enforcement, social services and educators on sex buyers and the harm they cause to women and girls. He speaks internationally at conferences for intimate partner violence and sexual exploitation.



Andrea Heinz (CEASE Edmonton)

Andrea Heinz is an educator and activist who spent seven years in Edmonton's licensed sex industry, exiting in December 2012. She holds a diploma in Correctional Services and is presently completing a Bachelor of Professional Arts in Governance, Law, and Management. Andrea is a peer-reviewed scholar on commercial sexual exploitation, has written for several professional publications, participated in several interviews, and appeared as a witness for the parliamentary review of Canada's prostitution laws. She has helped train hundreds of police officers on commercial sex and has aided in trafficking intervention operations. Andrea is the program coordinator for the Edmonton Sex Trade Offender Program (STOP) aka "john school". In 2020 she was honoured with a Woman of Courage Award by the Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (Edmonton)



John Cassells (Lifeworthy)

John Cassells has worked with vulnerable and exploited young people since entering youth work in 1984. Over the years, John has designed and led a variety of outreach programs, helping countless young people break free from addictions, homelessness, and human trafficking. For the past decade, he has directed the Lifeworthy Project at SIM Canada, providing care for individuals and families impacted by sex trade exploitation. He also created a SIM program called Men Ending Trafficking in 2015 and established it as an independent charity in 2019. John has provided consultations and testimonies on prostitution and human trafficking for municipal, provincial, and federal governments.



Stephen Moorgen (The Salvation Army Saskatoon)

I am the Modern Slavery Human Trafficking Coordinator at The Salvation Army in Saskatchewan. I am a father who has three biological sons as well as two foster children that I raise. I have worked previously in law enforcement for thirteen years, in labor and employment relations, investigations of harassment as well as workplace suicide as a result of harassment and discrimination. In addition, I also had considerable experience working with issues related to forced labour practices within the province of Saskatchewan. I have a passion for the issue of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking as well as proactive strategies to end demand and demand reduction as the nexus exists between demand reduction and human trafficking.



Janith Rajamanthri (The Salvation Army Winnipeg)

I am currently the Diversion Program Supervisor for the (Sex Buyer Accountability Program) and the (Choose to Change Domestic Violence Program) within the Salvation Army Correctional & Justice Services in Winnipeg, Manitoba. I completed my B.A. in Criminal Justice at the University of Winnipeg. I came to the Salvation Army with experience working in roles as a Probation Officer and as a Correctional Officer. I became aware of the Restorative Justice approaches to demand reduction regarding Prostitution/Sex Buyers through my previous roles and my current role. It is my goal and passion to address the demand through diversion programming, education, and awareness to provide support for Prostitution/Sex Buyers reduction response work in all forms.

FUNDERS

