

Youth Human Trafficking Education and Empowerment Program

OVERVIEW

This Youth Human Trafficking Education and Empowerment program is a collaborative initiative designed by [ACT Alberta](#), [Alberta Crime Stoppers](#), and [Little Warriors](#) to address the growing risks of exploitation and trafficking faced by Alberta's youth. The program aims to equip students, educators and parents across the province with the knowledge and skills to recognize, prevent, and respond to online and in-person exploitation. It also focuses on promoting healthy relationships, identifying toxic behaviors, and fostering long-term protective habits for young people while equipping them with relevant resources.

The program is designed for all students, parents and accompanying educators across Alberta, from middle school to high school, with adaptations to meet the developmental and cognitive needs of different age groups.

It also includes access to resources and supports and has been clinically over-viewed and approved for youth audiences. A complementary training component is available for parents, guardians, frontline youth service providers, teachers, and community members, supporting a coordinated and holistic approach to prevention.

Purpose

The primary goal of this program is to safeguard Alberta's youth from exploitation and human trafficking by:

1. **Raising Awareness:** Educating students, parents and educators about the realities of human trafficking and exploitation in both online and physical environments.
2. **Prevention:** Teaching students how to identify potential threats, recognize the signs of unhealthy or toxic relationships, and protect themselves and their peers, while also equipping parents with the tools to start meaningful conversations and create a safe, supportive space for their children.
3. **Empowerment:** Providing actionable strategies and resources for students to seek help and report suspicious activities.

Program Components

1. **Interactive Curriculum:** Tailored for age-appropriate learning, covering topics such as: online safety and how to use technology safely, understanding and identifying

- grooming tactics, differentiating healthy vs. toxic relationships, consent, boundaries, self-advocacy, and how it all relates to human trafficking.
2. **Workshops and Training Sessions:** Facilitated by ACT Alberta featuring real-life case studies, interactive scenarios, and survivor stories to enhance engagement and relatability.
 3. **Multimedia Resources:** A suite of videos, guides, and digital content to reinforce learning and encourage family and community conversations.
 4. **Reporting and Support Channels:** Ensuring students know how to access helplines, trusted organizations, and resources for reporting concerns safely and confidentially.

Target Audience

The program is designed for all students and accompanying educators across Alberta, from middle school to high school, with adaptations to meet the developmental and cognitive needs of different age groups.

Expected Outcomes

1. Increased awareness among youth about the signs and risks of exploitation and trafficking and how to respond in a safe manner.
2. Enhanced ability to identify and navigate unhealthy or toxic relationships.
3. Empowered students who can advocate for their own boundaries, their safety and well-being.
4. A strengthened network of prevention through collaboration between schools, families, and organizations.
5. Increased awareness for educators and ability to address related issues if/when encountered in the school setting.

Implementation Strategy

The program will be rolled out in partnership with school boards, community organizations, and local governments across Alberta. Facilitator training will be provided to ensure consistent and impactful delivery. A robust evaluation framework will measure program success and identify areas for improvement.

Conclusion

By uniting the expertise and resources of Alberta Crime Stoppers, ACT Alberta, and Little Warriors, this initiative provides a proactive approach to protecting Alberta's youth. Through education, empowerment, and community collaboration, the program will create a safer environment for students and help mitigate the risks of exploitation and human trafficking. In our initial pilot stages, we have taken feedback to provide versions tailored to Indigenous youth

on reserve, high risk, street entrenched youth, youth education for urban centres, and the project will evolve to meet the needs based on continual improvement through feedback mechanisms.