



## Health Matters Newsletter June 6, 2019

### Today's Health Matters Includes:

- Meeting Schedule
- Community Meetings and Events
- Local Data and Research-Child Poverty Fact Sheets now available for Cowichan
- The Impact of Embracing Asset-Based Community Development
- Preventing Child Sex Trafficking in BC Information shared by Cowichan RCMP
- Call for Proposals on the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy is open.
- Children's Rights Planning Meeting
- The Hospice Golf Tournament is almost here

*It's salmon berry season again!*



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- ✓ **Next Admin Committee Meeting- June 6, 3:30-6:30** CVRD Committee Room 2
  - ✓ **Next Our Cowichan Network Meeting at June, 2019, Ramada Silver Bridge** Light dinner at 5:15 pm Meeting starts at 5:45 pm.
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### Community Events- Meetings

- **Cowichan Housing and Homelessness Coalition Meeting (All Welcome)**-July 30, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm Location to be determined
  - **Community Response Team Meeting** June 27, 9 am-11am. **Island Savings Board Room**
  - **EPIC-Community Steering Committee** June 20, 1:30 -3:30 pm Ts'i'ts'uwatul' Lelum
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### Local Data and or Research- FIRST CALL BC CHILD POVERTY REGIONAL FACTSHEETS AVAILABLE – Cowichan rates included in

this report. Looking for easily-accessible facts specific to your region to present and share with your communities? We have pulled data from our 2018 Child Poverty Report Card to create [Regional Factsheets](#) that are shareable in .pdf and .ppt files and can be downloaded below. Factsheets



are available by region and federal riding. A huge thanks to Becky Kelly for her work in creating these resources.

The factsheets include graphs and graphics comparing the data from your region to British Columbia-wide data.

- Poverty rate for all residents
- Poverty rate for all children
- Poverty rate for children in couple families

Poverty rate for children in lone-parent families

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## The Impact of Embracing Asset-Based Community Development (Addressing Stigma by building relationships)

BY: HEATHER KEAM



Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) is about looking at the gifts and assets that exist within a neighbourhood and allowing people to respond to and create local opportunities. How do you use local assets and gifts to guide a city to increase the social fabric and deepen community? Howard Lawrence, who lives in a neighbourhood in Edmonton, had the answer to this question - Abundant

Community. Howard saw the power of neighbouring and wanted the city to experience the richness of neighbours sharing their gifts, knowledge, skills and abilities to improve their neighbourhood.

In 2013, Howard took his skills and knowledge of ABCD to the city to request funding for an Abundant Community Initiative to be piloted in one neighbourhood. The City granted \$15,000 in initial funding to support a pilot project. The initiative expanded to three neighbourhoods and is now active in 106 of Edmonton's 260 residential neighbourhoods. As evidence of its success, in 2018 Edmonton City Council funded 3.5 staff solely dedicated to support the Abundant Community Edmonton (ACE) initiative.



Why was the ACE initiative so successful? It comes down to the structure. It is very simple! It has to be grassroots, citizen-led initiative. The ACE initiative has 5 areas that work together to support each other:

- **City** - The City of Edmonton employs Neighbourhood Resource Coordinators, Revitalization Coordinators, and the ACE Team who work in neighbourhoods across the city.
- **Neighbourhood Leadership** can come from any individual or neighbourhood group that is looking to strengthen the connections where they live.
- **Support Team** often originates with the early adopters of the initiative.
- **Neighbourhood Connector** is someone from the neighbourhood who takes on the lead role in identifying, mobilizing, and supporting Block Connectors.

- **Block Connectors** connect with neighbours around them and perform three key roles: Point Person, Party Person and Listener.

The City of Edmonton places high value on healthy neighbourhoods. They have learned the potential for neighbourly relationships to guide and support the physical, social and mental health of the people of Edmonton. To learn more about how the City of Edmonton has embraced the Abundant Community principles and turned it into action read the newly released [case study](#).

**Learn more:**

- [Learn about ABCD](#)
- [Read the case study on the City of Edmonton's success with ABCD](#)
- [Check out the Abundant Community Edmonton Website](#)
- [Read the Four Essential Elements of ABCD by John McKnight and Cormac Russell](#)

## **Preventing Child Sex Trafficking in BC** Information shared by Cowichan RCMP

**Buying and selling children for sex is one of the fastest growing crimes in Canada, and it is happening in communities across BC.**

**Globalization, unregulated technology, lack of law enforcement and inadequate prevention education** is allowing this crime to grow globally.

Human sex trafficking (HT) involves the recruitment, transportation or harbouring of people for the purpose of exploitation through the use of force, coercion, fraud, deception or threats against the victim or person known to them. It is known as modern day slavery. According to the US State department's annual global report on trafficking in persons (TIP), Canada is a source, transit and destination for sex trafficking. (<https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/>)

Child sex trafficking is a lucrative crime. It has low costs and huge profits; a trafficker can make \$280,000 per victim, per year. The average age of entry into prostitution in Canada is 12-14 years of age, although traffickers are known to target younger children. Traffickers seek young victims both to service the demand for sex with those who look young, and because these victims are easier to manipulate and control.

The biggest problem in Canada is that people do not know there is a problem; therefore, child sex trafficking is expanding in the dark. Every child can be a target and a potential victim, but learning about this issue is the first step.

**Five things that parents can do to help prevent their children from being lured into sex trafficking:**

### **1. Set a high standard of love within your home**

The way you define and express love shapes your children's self-image, confidence and opinions of future relationships. Treat them the way you want their future partners to treat them. Help them to distinguish between real love and empty promises or cheap gifts.

### **2. Talk to your children about sexual abuse**

According to the US Department of Justice, someone in the US is sexually assaulted every two minutes, of which 29% are between the ages of 12-17. Let your children know that if anyone has or ever does hurt them, they can talk to you. This is the most important thing you can say. Don't assume they have

not been hurt by sexual violence before. Leave the door open for your child to talk about past circumstances that they haven't shared with you.

### **3. Talk to your children about sex trafficking**

Discuss ways children and teens are targeted for sex trafficking. Let them know that traffickers specifically try to woo young girls and boys with promises of a better life – whether it's promises of love and attention, or promises of nice things and trips. Traffickers can be male or female, even classmates. Traffickers may even use kids to recruit other kids.

### **4. Talk to your children about the dangers of social media**

It is important to provide practical safety tips, such as: don't share personal information on the internet; don't accept Facebook requests from unknown people; NEVER share naked photos of yourself with anyone; and tell a parent or a trusted adult if you feel threatened or uncomfortable online. Children also need help defining friendships. Teach them that a friend is not someone you met yesterday and that a "friend" on Facebook is not the same thing as a friendship.

### **5. Pay attention to your children**

Monitor your children's social media accounts. Look for ways to meet their friends, their friends' parents and those they hang out with. Be alert to boyfriends who are much older, or friendships that tend to isolate your child from other friends or family. Notice if your child has new clothing items, makeup products, cell phone or other items and ask how they acquired them.

#### **Resources and Links:**

- Covenant House (crises program for ages 16-24): [info@covenanthousebc.org](mailto:info@covenanthousebc.org), 604-685-7474
- Internet Safety Tips: [www.Cybertip.ca](http://www.Cybertip.ca)
- Fraser Health Forensic Nurse Service
- Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868
- Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons (OCTIP): 1-888-712-7974 (24/7 interpretation available), 604-660-5199, [octip@gov.bc.ca](mailto:octip@gov.bc.ca)
- Plea Community Services Society (assisting youth 24/7): [onyx@plea.bc.ca](mailto:onyx@plea.bc.ca), 604-708-2647
- Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter (24/7): 604-872-8212, [info@rapereliefshelter.bc.ca](mailto:info@rapereliefshelter.bc.ca)
- RCMP: Victims of Human Trafficking National Headquarters (24 hours): 1-866-677-7267
- Trafficking Resource Centre (USA): [www.traffickingresourcecenter.org](http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org)
- VictimLinkBC (24/7): 1-800-563-0808 Ministry of Public Safety, BC
- Youth Against Violence (24/7): [info@youthagainstviolenceline.com](mailto:info@youthagainstviolenceline.com), 1-800-680-4264

#### **Authorities Contacts:**

- RCMP: [www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca); 1-855-850-4640 OR 1-800-771-5401
- Ministry of Child Protection Services: 1-800-663-9122 or 604-660-4927 (24 hours) or 310-1234 if a child is in danger to reach Ministry of Child and Family Development
- Crime Stoppers : 1-800-222-TIPS (8477)

**National Human Trafficking Crisis Hotline Number: 1-866-528-7109**

#### **About the Author:**

Cathy Peters raises awareness of Child Sex Trafficking to all three levels of government in British

Columbia, police agencies and the public. She is a former inner city high school teacher and has volunteered for two Members of Parliament (John Weston/BC, Joy Smith/Manitoba). She has made hundreds of presentations, including to City Councils, School Boards, Police Boards, high schools, universities and law enforcement agencies.

For information about her prevention education presentations, please contact Cathy Peters at [ca.peters@telus.net](mailto:ca.peters@telus.net)

**Additional Resources:**

**Children of the Street Society (Coquitlam)** provides prevention education in BC schools; 25,000 students last school year Grades 3-12. They have an excellent website with tools/resources listed for every community in BC: <https://www.childrenofthestreet.com/>

**Joy Smith Foundation (Manitoba)** provides prevention education, resources and an overview of human sex trafficking Canada: <http://www.joysmithfoundation.com/>

**Shared Hope International (Washington State)** sponsors The JuST (Juvenile Sex Trafficking) Conference in the USA; an event that spotlights the most pressing issues in the anti-trafficking field. Visit: [www.justconference.org](http://www.justconference.org) for more information.

A MODERN EQUAL SOCIETY DOES NOT BUY AND SELL WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

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## **Call for Proposals the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy is open.**

Deadline is July 26, 2019, at 11:59 am (Pacific Time).

The Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS) program provides funding to organizations to deliver a range of activities that help youth overcome barriers to employment and develop a broad range of skills and knowledge in order to participate in the current and future labour market. Support will be tailored to the needs of youth that are facing barriers to employments. Youth who face barriers often include:

- \* youth who are early leavers from high school;
- \* recent immigrant youth;
- \* youth from visible minority groups;
- \* youth living with disabilities;
- \* single parent youth;
- \* youth living in low-income households;
- \* youth experiencing homelessness or precarious housing; and,
- \* youth living in rural or remote areas.

The YESS program also encourages collaborations and innovation to increase capacity across the youth service provider network (e.g. employers, service delivery organizations and educational institutions), to better support youth, and to help employers hire and retain youth, in particular those who face barriers.

Program:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/youth-employment-strategy.html>

CFP

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/youth-employment-skills-strategy-program.html>

Applicant Guide

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/youth-employment-skills-strategy-program/applicant-guide.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/fr/emploi-developpement-social/services/financement/programme-strategie-emploi-competences-jeunesse/guide-demandeur.html>

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## Children's Rights Planning Meeting- Information Attached

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## Health Matters Newsletter

**Do you have a resource, event or information you would like to share?**

Send it to [cindylisecchn@shaw.ca](mailto:cindylisecchn@shaw.ca) and it will be included in the weekly newsletter