Myth vs. Fact

Myth: Women are always sexually exploited by strangers.
Fact: Those who sexually exploit women are not always strangers. Women are often sexually exploited by parents, husbands, boyfriends, relatives, friends, teachers or bosses.

Myth: Only sex trade workers are sexually exploited.
Fact: Sexual exploitation can happen anywhere; in the home, on the streets, in hotel rooms, at a friend’s place or at the workplace.

Am I being sexually exploited?
- Do you feel you must give sex for money, food, drugs, or a place to sleep?
- Have you ever been a target of sexual solicitation, including uninvited or unwanted requests to engage in sexual activities or explicit conversations in person, on the phone, or over the internet?
- Do you feel someone will hurt you unless you are sexually active with them?
- Does someone make you feel guilty for not engaging in sex or a sexual relationship?
- Has someone convinced you to move away from your home and community for sexual purposes?
- Has someone ever touched themselves inappropriately in front of you, or touched you when it is unwanted?

If I am sexually exploited, what do I need to know?
- It’s not your fault. No one deserves or asks to be sexually exploited for any reason.
- There is help available. Find out about your options by talking with women’s resource or community centres. You can speak to them about advocacy, legal support, health care, cultural programming, housing, counselling, crisis services, information on street programs and addiction services.

If you need immediate help, call 911 or the local police. Keep emergency phone numbers with you.

If you need a safe place to go, there may be emergency shelters in your area. There may also be safe, low-income housing available if you cannot afford regular housing and need to find a safe place to live.

If you need food, clothing, or other items such as, condoms, or clean needles, you can often get these from community centres for free.

What can you do?
- Reach out to others. Speak to a trusted Elder, family member, health care provider or friend or find someone to talk to at support groups or drop-in centres.
- Set up a buddy system with someone you trust. Keep them up-to-date about where you are. You might want to share your contact information with them.
- Create an exit or emergency plan. Find out where the shelters are and who you can contact for quick help. Have a bag ready for you and your children in case you have to leave in a hurry. You may want to speak to a councillor or another professional to help you plan a safe exit.

What is sexual exploitation?
This brochure is intended to provide information to women and their loved ones about issues related to sexual exploitation. In addition to assisting the reader in understanding what sexual exploitation is, it provides helpful types and resources that may assist in exiting sexual exploitive relationships.

“The term 'sexual exploitation' means any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.”

Myth vs. Fact

Myth: Women are always sexually exploited by strangers.
Fact: Those who sexually exploit women are not always strangers. Women are often sexually exploited by parents, husbands, boyfriends, relatives, friends, teachers or bosses.

Myth: Only sex trade workers are sexually exploited.
Fact: Sexual exploitation can happen anywhere; in the home, on the streets, in hotel rooms, at a friend’s place or at the workplace.

Am I being sexually exploited?
- Do you feel you must give sex for money, food, drugs, or a place to sleep?
- Have you ever been a target of sexual solicitation, including uninvited or unwanted requests to engage in sexual activities or explicit conversations in person, on the phone, or over the internet?
- Do you feel someone will hurt you unless you are sexually active with them?
- Does someone make you feel guilty for not engaging in sex or a sexual relationship?
- Has someone convinced you to move away from your home and community for sexual purposes?
- Has someone ever touched themselves inappropriately in front of you, or touched you when it is unwanted?

If I am sexually exploited, what do I need to know?
- It’s not your fault. No one deserves or asks to be sexually exploited for any reason.
- There is help available. Find out about your options by talking with women’s resource or community centres. You can speak to them about advocacy, legal support, health care, cultural programming, housing, counselling, crisis services, information on street programs and addiction services.

If you need immediate help, call 911 or the local police. Keep emergency phone numbers with you.

If you need a safe place to go, there may be emergency shelters in your area. There may also be safe, low-income housing available if you cannot afford regular housing and need to find a safe place to live.

If you need food, clothing, or other items such as, condoms, or clean needles, you can often get these from community centres for free.

What can you do?
- Reach out to others. Speak to a trusted Elder, family member, health care provider or friend or find someone to talk to at support groups or drop-in centres.
- Set up a buddy system with someone you trust. Keep them up-to-date about where you are. You might want to share your contact information with them.
- Create an exit or emergency plan. Find out where the shelters are and who you can contact for quick help. Have a bag ready for you and your children in case you have to leave in a hurry. You may want to speak to a councillor or another professional to help you plan a safe exit.

What is sexual exploitation?
This brochure is intended to provide information to women and their loved ones about issues related to sexual exploitation. In addition to assisting the reader in understanding what sexual exploitation is, it provides helpful types and resources that may assist in exiting sexual exploitive relationships.

“The term 'sexual exploitation' means any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.”

Myth vs. Fact

Myth: Women are always sexually exploited by strangers.
Fact: Those who sexually exploit women are not always strangers. Women are often sexually exploited by parents, husbands, boyfriends, relatives, friends, teachers or bosses.

Myth: Only sex trade workers are sexually exploited.
Fact: Sexual exploitation can happen anywhere; in the home, on the streets, in hotel rooms, at a friend’s place or at the workplace.

Am I being sexually exploited?
- Do you feel you must give sex for money, food, drugs, or a place to sleep?
- Have you ever been a target of sexual solicitation, including uninvited or unwanted requests to engage in sexual activities or explicit conversations in person, on the phone, or over the internet?
- Do you feel someone will hurt you unless you are sexually active with them?
- Does someone make you feel guilty for not engaging in sex or a sexual relationship?
- Has someone convinced you to move away from your home and community for sexual purposes?
- Has someone ever touched themselves inappropriately in front of you, or touched you when it is unwanted?

If I am sexually exploited, what do I need to know?
- It’s not your fault. No one deserves or asks to be sexually exploited for any reason.
- There is help available. Find out about your options by talking with women’s resource or community centres. You can speak to them about advocacy, legal support, health care, cultural programming, housing, counselling, crisis services, information on street programs and addiction services.

If you need immediate help, call 911 or the local police. Keep emergency phone numbers with you.

If you need a safe place to go, there may be emergency shelters in your area. There may also be safe, low-income housing available if you cannot afford regular housing and need to find a safe place to live.

If you need food, clothing, or other items such as, condoms, or clean needles, you can often get these from community centres for free.

What can you do?
- Reach out to others. Speak to a trusted Elder, family member, health care provider or friend or find someone to talk to at support groups or drop-in centres.
- Set up a buddy system with someone you trust. Keep them up-to-date about where you are. You might want to share your contact information with them.
- Create an exit or emergency plan. Find out where the shelters are and who you can contact for quick help. Have a bag ready for you and your children in case you have to leave in a hurry. You may want to speak to a councillor or another professional to help you plan a safe exit.

What is sexual exploitation?
This brochure is intended to provide information to women and their loved ones about issues related to sexual exploitation. In addition to assisting the reader in understanding what sexual exploitation is, it provides helpful types and resources that may assist in exiting sexual exploitive relationships.

“The term 'sexual exploitation' means any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.”

Myth vs. Fact

Myth: Women are always sexually exploited by strangers.
Fact: Those who sexually exploit women are not always strangers. Women are often sexually exploited by parents, husbands, boyfriends, relatives, friends, teachers or bosses.

Myth: Only sex trade workers are sexually exploited.
Fact: Sexual exploitation can happen anywhere; in the home, on the streets, in hotel rooms, at a friend’s place or at the workplace.

Am I being sexually exploited?
- Do you feel you must give sex for money, food, drugs, or a place to sleep?
- Have you ever been a target of sexual solicitation, including uninvited or unwanted requests to engage in sexual activities or explicit conversations in person, on the phone, or over the internet?
- Do you feel someone will hurt you unless you are sexually active with them?
- Does someone make you feel guilty for not engaging in sex or a sexual relationship?
- Has someone convinced you to move away from your home and community for sexual purposes?
- Has someone ever touched themselves inappropriately in front of you, or touched you when it is unwanted?

If I am sexually exploited, what do I need to know?
- It’s not your fault. No one deserves or asks to be sexually exploited for any reason.
- There is help available. Find out about your options by talking with women’s resource or community centres. You can speak to them about advocacy, legal support, health care, cultural programming, housing, counselling, crisis services, information on street programs and addiction services.

If you need immediate help, call 911 or the local police. Keep emergency phone numbers with you.

If you need a safe place to go, there may be emergency shelters in your area. There may also be safe, low-income housing available if you cannot afford regular housing and need to find a safe place to live.

If you need food, clothing, or other items such as, condoms, or clean needles, you can often get these from community centres for free.
If you know someone who is being sexually exploited, you can...

Be supportive. Talk to them without judgement. Remember, women and children are sexually exploited because of circumstances, not choice.

Be there for them. Some women may want a friend or relative to be with them when they visit services like support circles, drop-in centres, doctors or shelters.

Let them take the lead when deciding what help they may want.

Be safe. Your safety is important too. Do not confront the offender or put yourself in danger.

Children are our future. If you believe that a minor person (someone under the age of 18) has been sexually exploited in any way you are legally obligated to report it to authorities.

---

Understanding Sexual Exploitation: A quick guide for Métis women

---

Resources

**Alcohol and Drug Information and Referral Services:**
Toll-free: 1-800-663-1441
http://www.vcr.bc.ca/isv/adirs.htm

**BC Crisis Line (24 hr):**
Toll-free: 1-866-601-3311
www.crisiscentre.bc.ca

**Fort St. John Keegiwan Friendship Centre**
10208 - 95th Ave, Fort St. John
Ph. 250-785-8566
Elder program and legal information services.

**Fort St. John Métis Society**
10011 100 St, Fort St. John
Ph. 250-775-1541
Drop-in centre, referral services, Métis children’s advocate, Elder program.

**Fort St. John Women’s Resource Society**
10051 - 100th Ave, Fort St. John
Ph. 250-787-6121
http://www.fsjwrs.ca/
Housing and shelter, food, clothing, condoms, bus passes, computer access, child custody workshops.

**Métis Centre**
National Aboriginal Health Organization
220 Laurier Avenue West, Suite 1200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5Z9
www.naho.ca/metiscentre/
Métis specific health promotional tools, research database, and health information resources.

**National Crisis Line for Victims of Human Trafficking:**
Ph. 1-866-529-7109

**North East Native Advancing Society**
13028-101st Avenue, Fort St. John
Ph. 250-785-0887
Youth recovery and family programs.

**North Peace Community Resources Society**
10142 – 101st Ave, Fort St. John
Ph. 250-785-6021
http://www.npcrs.bc.ca/
Counselling, sexual abuse intervention, transition house, victim services, children who witness violence/abuse program.

**Rape Relief Line:**
Ph. 604-872-8212
http://www.rapereliefsite.bc.ca/

**Rising Spirit Aboriginal Youth Centre**
10035 – 100th Ave, Fort St. John
Ph. 250-263-9919
Drop-in and recovery program.

**Royal Canadian Mounted Police**
Ph. 1-804-264-3111
http://bc.rcmp.ca

**Salvation Army Emergency Shelter**
10116 100th Avenue, Fort St. John
Ph. 250-785-2538

**VictimLink BC:**
Toll-free: 1-866-563-0808
http://www.victimlinkbc.ca/

**Women Against Violence Against Women**
Ph. 604-255-6226
Toll-free 24hr crisis line: 1-877-392-7583
http://www.wavaw.ca
Hospital accompaniment, counselling, Aboriginal support groups, referrals, educational workshops, victim’s services.

---

2. Sexual solicitations include uninvited, unwanted requests to engage in sexual activities or explicit conversations, or give personal sexual information” (Canadian Red Cross [2011]) Adults: Help keep kids safer online. Retrieved July 15, 2011, from http://www.redcross.ca/article.asp?id=29033&tid=001
5. “Sexual assault is any form of unwanted sexual contact. It can include kissing, touching, grabbing, or forced sexual intercourse.” Wavaw. Facts about sexual assault. http://www.wavaw.ca/index.cfm?page_id=23

---

National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO)
Organisation nationale de la santé autochtone (ONS)