



Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy

A Coordinated Response to Human Trafficking

Building a Coordinated Response to Human Trafficking

A Message from the Chief

On behalf of Peel Regional Police and our community partners, we are pleased to present the Peel Regional Police Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy: A Coordinated Response to Human Trafficking.

Human trafficking is a serious and evolving crime that exploits vulnerability through coercion, deception, and control. It causes significant harm to individuals, families, and communities and is increasingly facilitated through technology and organized criminal networks.

Addressing this issue requires more than enforcement alone. Victims and survivors often interact with multiple systems, including police, schools, child welfare, health care, and community organizations. When these systems work in isolation, opportunities to prevent harm and provide timely support can be missed.

This strategy reflects Peel Regional Police's commitment to working collaboratively with community partners, service providers, and all levels of government to strengthen prevention, improve coordination, hold traffickers accountable, and support victims and survivors.

Together with our partners, we are committed to building a coordinated, survivor-centred, and trauma-informed response that protects vulnerable individuals, disrupts trafficking networks, and supports long-term safety and recovery.



PEEL HUMAN TRAFFICKING
SERVICE PROVIDERS COMMITTEE

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"Human trafficking is one of the most harmful and complex crimes affecting our communities. Addressing it requires strong partnerships, coordinated action, and a commitment to supporting victims and survivors. This strategy reflects our dedication to working alongside community partners to prevent exploitation, hold offenders accountable, and ensure those impacted receive the support they need."

Chief Nishan Duraipappah
Peel Regional Police

Understanding Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is one of the most harmful and underreported crimes impacting communities across Canada. It involves the recruitment, transportation, harbouring, or control of a person for the purpose of exploitation.

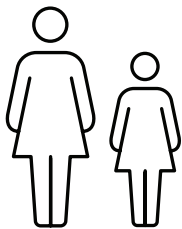
Trafficking often occurs through coercion, deception, manipulation, or abuse of power and most commonly involves sexual exploitation or forced labour. It can occur in homes, hotels, workplaces, online environments, and other everyday settings.

Human trafficking disproportionately impacts individuals who are vulnerable or marginalized and causes significant physical, emotional, psychological, and financial harm. While anyone can be targeted, women and girls continue to represent the vast majority of identified victims.

This crime is becoming increasingly sophisticated, technology-enabled, and embedded within everyday environments. As trafficking networks evolve, law enforcement and community partners must continue to strengthen prevention, early intervention, coordinated enforcement, and survivor support efforts.

Through this strategy, Peel Regional Police and community partners are working to improve early identification, strengthen collaboration, reduce risk factors, and increase our collective ability to identify, disrupt, and prosecute traffickers while supporting victims and survivors on their path to safety and recovery.

Peel Region Statistics



93%
of individuals who
are trafficked are
women and girls

In 2024, police-reported
incidents of human trafficking
in Peel Region increased by

60%

The average age of those
trafficked is between

12 to 24



Newcomer Vulnerability:
increased labour trafficking
risks for Peel's large immigrant
population and international
students with uncertain status.



Our Strategy

Peel Regional Police, in collaboration with community partners, developed this strategy to strengthen prevention, coordinated intervention, enforcement, and survivor support efforts across Peel Region.

This strategy aligns with:

- Region of Peel's Anti-Human Sex Trafficking Strategy
- Ontario's Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy
- Canada's National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking
- Peel Regional Police Community Safety and Well-Being Strategy

Peel Regional Police developed this strategy in alignment with regional, provincial, and national strategies, reflecting our commitment to advancing shared priorities and operationalizing these commitments across our Service.

Guiding Principles

Culturally Responsive & Inclusive

Recognize the intersecting backgrounds, identities, and unique barriers faced by victims and survivors. Ensure all services and responses are inclusive, accessible, and culturally appropriate, with specialized attention to newcomers, 2SLGBTQI+ individuals, and persons with cognitive or physical disabilities.

Trauma-Informed

Prioritize safety, dignity, empowerment, and an understanding of the impacts of trauma in all interactions and responses.

Survivor-Centred

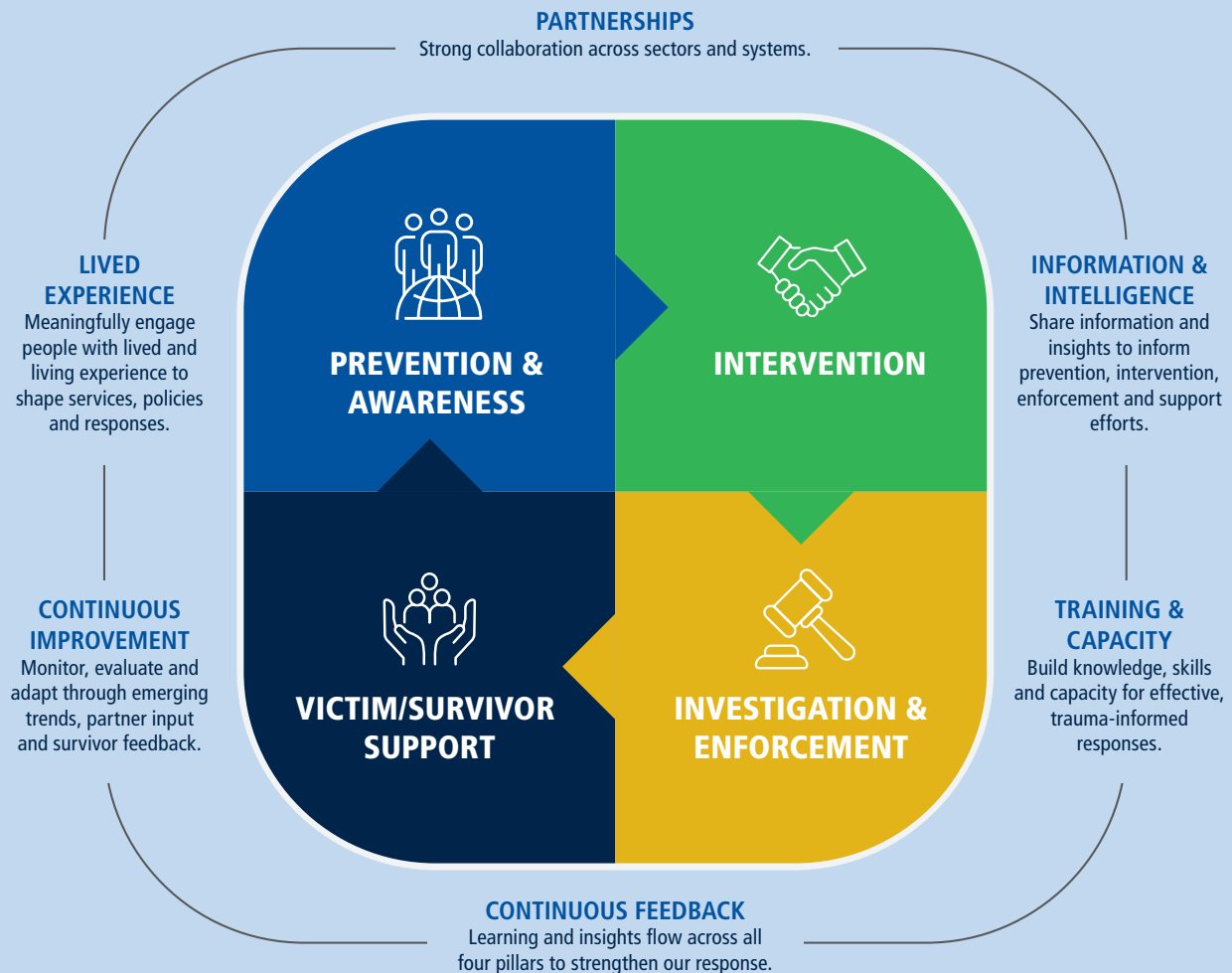
Respect the autonomy, lived experience, and individual needs of victims and survivors throughout all stages of support and intervention.

Strong Coordination and Enforcement Response

Promote integrated collaboration between law enforcement, community organizations, and service providers to prevent trafficking, support survivors, and hold offenders accountable.

Our Framework

The following framework will guide how we work with our partners to operationalize this strategy.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE AND INCLUSIVE
Recognize the intersecting backgrounds, identities, and unique barriers faced by victims and survivors. Ensure all services and responses are inclusive, accessible, and culturally appropriate.

TRAUMA-INFORMED
Prioritize safety, dignity, empowerment, and an understanding of the impacts of trauma in all interactions and responses.

SURVIVOR-CENTRED
Respect the autonomy, lived experience, and individual needs of victims and survivors throughout all stages of support and intervention.

STRONG COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE
Promote integrated collaboration between law enforcement, community organizations, and service providers to prevent trafficking, support survivors, and hold offenders accountable.

Key Actions

The Strategy is built on four key pillars that guide Peel Regional Police and community partners in advancing prevention, intervention, enforcement, and survivor support efforts across Peel Region.

Pillar 1: Prevention & Awareness

Focus on reducing the vulnerabilities of trafficking through education, engagement, and early identification.

Key Activities

- Continue to work with partners to increase outreach to a wide range of communities and priority populations
- Strengthen public education and awareness initiatives in collaboration with social service partners
- Expand on internal and external trainings for frontline professionals
- Continue to provide conferences, workshops, and professional development opportunities for police and community partners
- Facilitate joint presentations and other learning opportunities for the community (ie.youth, parents, etc.)
- Enhance outreach and awareness for high-risk sectors, including hotel, transportation, and retail
- Collectively advocate with our partners for human trafficking resources, supports, and addressing gaps

Pillar 2: Intervention

Early identification and coordinated response when risk or victimization is identified.

Key Activities

- Strengthen missing persons response protocols to support early intervention
- Enhance coordination with the Peel Children's Aid Society building on our high-risk youth protocols
- Continue to engage and make referrals to establish programs such as nCourage and This Way Out
- Leverage the Peel Situation Table for cases that meet the threshold for Acutely Elevated Risk
- Continue to work with our school boards and actively participate in protocols and reporting pathways
- Expand multi-agency case conferencing to support victims and survivors with heightened risk factors
- Strengthen information sharing and case tracking practices to more effectively identify and serve victims and survivors

Pillar 3: Investigation & Enforcement

Disrupt and dismantle trafficking networks through intelligence-led investigations and coordinated enforcement.

Key Activities

- Continue to engage in intelligence-led investigations through analysis and coordinated operations
- Expand our participation in Joint Force Operations (JFO) and integrated enforcement partnerships
- Increase our capacity to identify and disrupt trafficking networks
- Explore targeted enforcement strategies to identify offenders, including the adoption of new technologies and other innovative approaches (ie. Esri platform)
- Advocate for enhanced measures to hold traffickers accountable through criminal investigations
- Strengthen pathways and processes to triage supports and maximize the effectiveness of investigations
- Continue to build capacity through inter-agency collaboration and investigations

Pillar 4: Victim/Survivor Support

Ensure victims and survivors receive immediate safety, stabilization, and long-term support.

Key Activities

- Maintain strong partnerships with community service providers to optimize supports for victims and survivors
- Continue to provide safety planning and crisis response for victims and survivors of human trafficking
- Ensure trauma informed care and wrap-around service continuity including ongoing training opportunities and protocols
- Continue to ensure that victims and survivors are supported through the legal process including court support services
- Ensure victims' and survivors' voices inform and guide the Peel Regional Police Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy
- Expand efforts with partners to ensure access to culturally specific, survivor centred supports
- Work with partners to continue to identify and address gaps in service delivery and leverage funding opportunities
- Ensure that victims/survivors have access to long-term recovery and reintegration supports

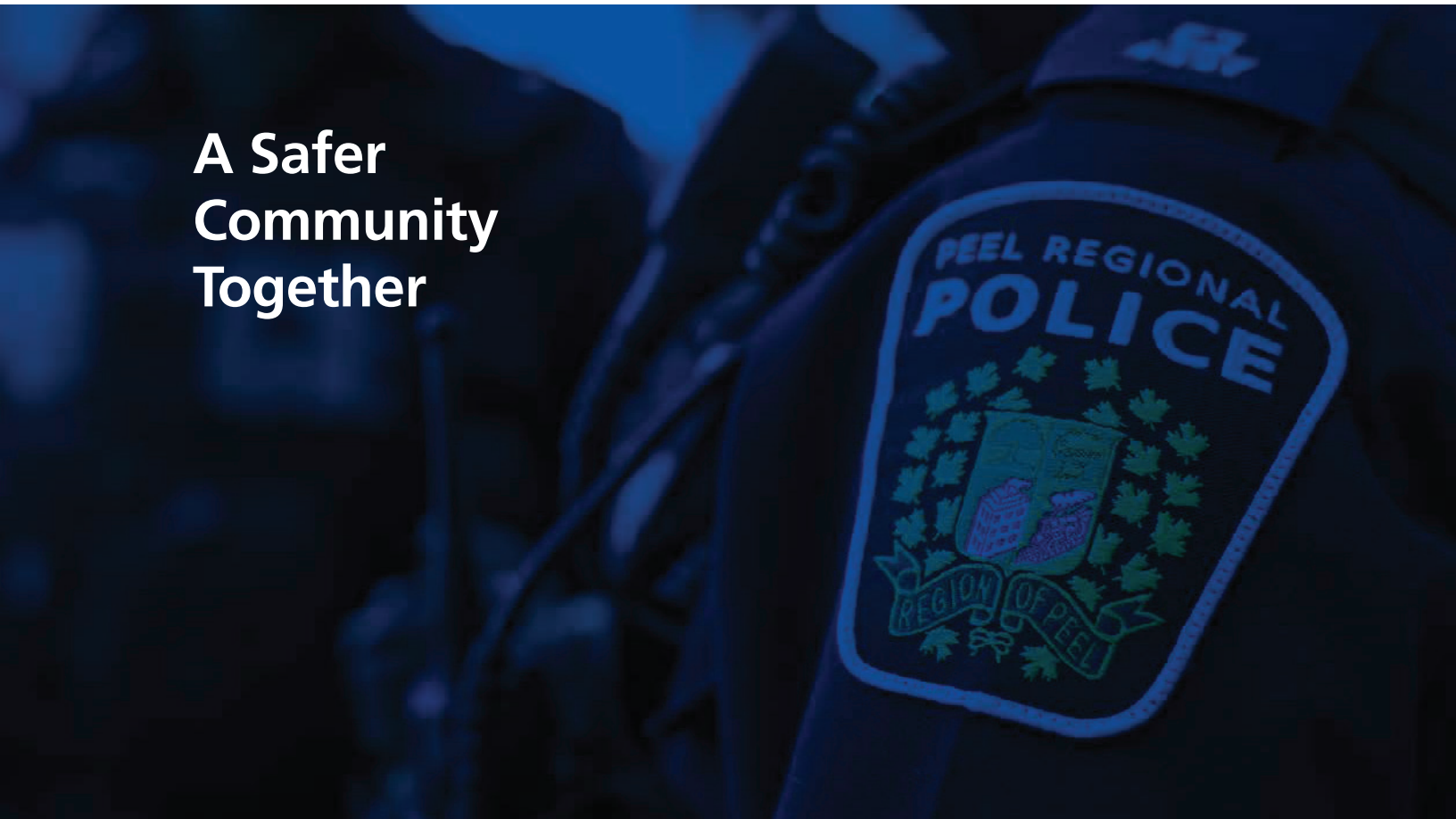
Shared Responsibility

Human trafficking cannot be addressed by law enforcement alone. Prevention, early intervention, enforcement, and survivor support require strong collaboration across systems and sectors.

Peel Regional Police and community partners remain committed to building a coordinated and responsive approach that improves community safety, strengthens support for victims and survivors, and holds traffickers accountable.

This strategy is intended to serve as a living framework that will continue to evolve through collaboration, emerging trends, community feedback, and ongoing engagement with partners and survivors.

Together, we can strengthen prevention, improve coordination, support survivors, and build safer communities for everyone.



A Safer Community Together