

CACP National Symposium

Human Trafficking and the Nexus to Organized Crime

Symposium National de L'ACCP

Traite des personnes et le lien au crime organisé

December 1 - 3 décembre 2024

Vancouver, BC



Symposium Description

This symposium promises to shed light on Canada's relentless battle against human trafficking, spotlighting the alarming trend of organized crime syndicates entering the trade, treating it as a lucrative enterprise akin to guns and drugs. Attendees will be immersed in the collaborative efforts of law enforcement, justice partners, community organizations, and industry, revealing a vivid landscape of heightened awareness, early detection, and robust support for survivors, all while ensuring the prosecution of offenders. Expect dynamic discussions on interagency networking, multi-jurisdictional investigations, effective victim management, and uncovering the parallels to organized crime enterprises.

Who should attend

- Law Enforcement personnel (Investigators, Front Line, Supervisors, Senior Managers, and Executives)
- Organized Crime Units (CFSEU, IHIT, FSOC, Gun & Gangs, Street Crime, Patrol/Highway Traffic, etc.)
- Intelligence and Crime Analysis Professionals
- Crowns
- Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) and Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

TIME	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024
17:00-19:00	Onsite Registration (<i>Stanley Park Foyer</i>)

TIME	MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024
07:00	Onsite Registration (<i>Stanley Park Foyer</i>)

TIME	MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024
07:00 – 08:30	Breakfast (<i>Stanley Park Foyer</i>)
08:30 – 16:15	Plenary Sessions (<i>Stanley Park Ballroom</i>) Masters of Ceremonies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sergeant Sandy Avelar, Vancouver Police Department Corporal Kerry Ann Johnson, Federal Policing Prevention and Engagement, Royal Canadian Mounted Police
08:30 – 08:45	Opening Ceremonies Opening Prayer Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deputy Commissioner Dwayne McDonald, O.O.M., Royal Canadian Mounted Police Chief Constable Adam Palmer, C.O.M., Vancouver Police Department
SESSION 1 08:45 – 09:45	It Can Happen to You: My Beautiful Daughter was lost to “The Game” Presenter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jennifer Holleman Description Jennifer Holleman is a mother from rural Nova Scotia who, like many parents thought that human trafficking was something that only happened in big cities. However, her daughter Maddison was recruited in Nova Scotia by a street gang and trafficked in Alberta. Tragically, her daughter was in a car with a “John” when she was involved in a fatal accident. Jennifer tells her story of navigating multiple police jurisdictions in attempts to get her daughter back from the hands of her traffickers and her frustration with dealing with the barriers she faced. When the investigation of Maddison’s death was closed, Jennifer began her own investigation into what really happened to Maddison. Jennifer’s story is one rarely heard in public – someone who lost their daughter to ‘the game’ in Canada.
09:45 – 10:15	Network Break (<i>Stanley Park Foyer</i>)
SESSION 2 10:15 – 11:00	Human Trafficking Unveiled: How it works, who is at risk and its ties to organized crime for investigators Presenter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acting Sergeant Marlies Dick, British Columbia Counter Human Trafficking Unit, RCMP E-Division Description This session will explore the operational dynamics of human trafficking, identifying those most vulnerable to exploitation and how trafficking networks intersect with organized crime. The

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	discussion will equip investigators with insights into the tactics used by traffickers and the broader criminal structures that support trafficking.
SESSION 3 11:00 – 12:15	<p>From Targeting to Trauma Bonding: Unpacking the Psychological Tools of Human Traffickers</p> <p>Presenters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teal Maedel, Criminal Investigative Psychologist, RCMP E-Division • Dr. David Marxsen, Criminal Investigative Psychologist, RCMP E-Division • Mallory Fewster, Social Service and Lived Experience Leader <p>Description</p> <p>This panel will bring together specialists with both lived and professional experience- including clinical counselors, social service professionals, and criminal investigative psychologists- to explore the complex dimensions of human trafficking and gangs, psychopathy, targeting, and trauma bonding. Presenters will delve into how psychological coercion serves as a core tactic for controlling victims, the biological impact of psychopathy, and equipping investigators with essential insights to recognize these patterns and effectively intervene in suspected human trafficking cases.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <p>Larissa Maxwell, Therapist, UBC PhD(s), CEO, Maxwell Consulting Group</p>
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch (<i>Stanley Park Foyer</i>)
SESSION 4 13:15 – 14:15	<p>Mapping the Nexus; Human Trafficking and Organized Crime from a Criminal Analyst’s perspective</p> <p>Presenter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linh Riddick, Human Trafficking Analyst, Vancouver Police Department <p>Description</p> <p>This presentation will provide an overview of the current landscape relating to Human Trafficking in British Columbia as well as examples stemming from recent investigations that clearly illustrate the nexus between organized crime groups and Human Trafficking.</p>
14:15 – 14:45	Network Break (<i>Stanley Park Foyer</i>)
SESSION 5 14:45 – 16:15	<p>Project Eonni - Asian Organized Crime and the Transnational Sex Trade</p> <p>Presenter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sergeant Ricky Ho, York Regional Police <p>Description</p> <p>In 2020 York Regional Police’s Human Trafficking Section began an investigation into an Asian Organized Crime Group involved in using forgery for Asian Sex Trade Workers to enter Canada,</p>

TIME MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024	
	<p>moved from BC to Ontario to work and being forced to work in GTA sex trade. YRP along with other GTA police services used FINTRAC, undercover work and surveillance to uncover the inner workings of this group. Police executed 20 search warrants at sex trade locations and banks along with Peel, Toronto, OPP and the CBSA – to seize more than \$4.3 million in cash.</p>

TIME TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024	
07:00 – 08:30	Breakfast <i>(Stanley Park Foyer)</i>
08:30-15:30	<p>Plenary Sessions <i>(Stanley Park Ballroom)</i></p> <p>Masters of Ceremonies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sergeant Sandy Avelar, Vancouver Police Department • Corporal Kerry Ann Johnson, Federal Policing Prevention and Engagement, Royal Canadian Mounted Police
<p>SESSION 6 08:30 – 09:30</p>	<p>Her Time – Women in Organized Crime</p> <p>Presenters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sergeant Sandy Avelar, Vancouver Police Department • Detective Anish Myette, Vancouver Police Department <p>Description Women have historically been involved in organized crime in various ways, although the focus has traditionally been on men. Her Time will discuss the ways in which women have and are currently involved in organized crime, including human trafficking, and what methods can be used to best prevent the continuation of their involvement.</p>
<p>SESSION 7 09:30 – 10:15</p>	<p>Combating Human Trafficking Through Financial Intelligence</p> <p>Presenter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephanie Joyal, Team Leader, Intelligence Sector, FINTRAC <p>Description Financial Intelligence can be a powerful tool for following the money in human trafficking investigations, especially as human trafficking becomes increasingly perpetrated by sophisticated organized crime groups. This session will demonstrate how financial intelligence can be harnessed for HT investigations, including emerging trends related to both sexual exploitation and labour trafficking.</p>
10:15 – 10:45	Network Break <i>(Stanley Park Foyer)</i>
<p>SESSION 8</p>	Project Norte – Case Study

TIME TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024	
10:45 – 11:45	<p>Presenter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detective Constable Marc Gaines, Human Trafficking Unit, York Regional Police <p>Description</p> <p>In 2023, York Regional Police along with CBSA investigated a large labour trafficking group operating in the GTA. This investigation was dubbed Project Norte. The group was exploiting Mexican migrant workers by having them work in large and well-known farms, warehouses and manufacturing companies. Lawyers in Mexico conspired with an organized GTA group to facilitate the recruitment of workers to Canada. Upon arrival, the workers were housed in deplorable conditions. Some were sexually assaulted and threatened with harm. During the Project’s Takedown, 64 workers were located and rescued, 7 people were arrested, and 66 charges were laid.</p>
11:45 – 12:45	Lunch (<i>Stanley Park Foyer</i>)
SESSION 9 12:45 – 13:45	TBC
13:45 – 14:00	Network Break (<i>Stanley Park Foyer</i>)
SESSION 10 14:00 – 15:30	<p>Mexican cartels and sex trafficking organizations operating in the US and Mexico</p> <p>Presenter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sean Tepfer, Senior Trainer, DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking (CCHT), Training Section, Homeland Security Investigations <p>Description</p> <p>This session will describe successful efforts to combat a complex transnational sex trafficking organization operating throughout the US and Mexico. The session will include structure of the organization, recruiting methods, partnerships with large scale Mexican cartels, means to control the victims and money laundering techniques utilized by the organization. The session will conclude with effective case coordination methods between police and prosecutors in US and Mexico.</p>
15:30	Closing Remarks