

RESOURCES

If you have a non-emergency concern, you can call:

Collingwood Community Policing Centre:
604 717 2935

Sex worker organizations may already know the sex worker and be able to speak with them, if you are uncomfortable doing so.

PEERS Vancouver Resource Society – A non profit society established by ex-sex workers and community supporters dedicated to the empowerment, education and support of sex workers. www.peersvancouver.org
OFFICE: 604 681 3044 OUTREACH: 778 868 1776

ONYX – provides support services to youth 18 and under who are or have been sexually exploited.
604 708 2647 / onyx@plea.bc.ca

See the **Living in Community** webpage for more resources:
www.livingincommunity.ca

When to call 9-1-1:

- in an emergency, i.e. someone is in immediate danger or being threatened
- if you see someone in distress
- if you suspect someone underage is being exploited

OTHER RESOURCES

Collingwood Business Improvement Association – Supports healthy business development and community events in Collingwood. TEL: 604 639 4403

Collingwood Neighbourhood House – Social and recreational activities for all residents, welcoming and inclusive to everyone. TEL: 604 435 0323

Evergreen Community Health Centre – Public healthcare services like primary care, addictions, mental health, parenting groups, and home care. TEL: 604 872 2511

Safe Online Outreach Society (SOLOS) – Information and tools for parents and educators to help keep children and youth safe online. www.safeonlineoutreach.com

Needle Pick-up Hotline – 604 657 6561

Vancouver 3-1-1 – For info and requests on city services such as mattress and garbage removal.

SAFE in Collingwood

SAFE is an initiative led by local businesses, residents, and organizations. We work together to improve sex workers health and support networks, prevent the sexual exploitation of youth and engage businesses, residents and families in building a healthier neighbourhood.

What are we doing?

We are promoting sex work awareness through a series of community discussions as well as developing information brochures, tool kits and an interactive website. We are also developing local outreach support to sex workers. We are committed to working together to create a community that is healthy and safe for everyone.

We Want to Hear from You!

Learn more. Get involved. Share your concerns and ideas for addressing them.

If you have a specific concern, contact SAFE at

EMAIL: safeincollingwood@gmail.com

PHONE: leave a message for SAFE through Collingwood Neighbourhood House at 604 435 0323

WEB: www.safeincollingwood.ca



SAFE
IN COLLINGWOOD

SEX WORK AWARENESS FOR EVERYONE

Working together to create a community that is healthy and safe for everyone.

**A Pocket Guide for
Parents & Families in Collingwood**

UNDERSTANDING THE LAW

In Canada, it is NOT against the law to be a sex worker.

Anybody is free to stand in public spaces such as in front of businesses, bus stops or anywhere on the sidewalk.

For more information, please go to www.livingincommunity.ca

WHAT IF I HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A SEX WORKER?

Sex workers often feel threatened and may be scared of you too.

- Acknowledge the sex worker's presence
- Be respectful
- Explain your concerns

Sex workers are often parents too, and are usually agreeable to moving when they understand there is a concern and are approached politely.

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT SEX WORK

Although it can be difficult to explain sex work to children, it creates an opportunity to arm them with knowledge. Be as open and honest as possible while encouraging your children to accept and respect sex workers as fellow human beings.

When children and youth are educated, they are far better equipped to avoid the risk of sexual exploitation.

"Child Sexual Exploitation" refers to the sexual abuse of children and youth under the age of 18 through the exchange of sex or sexual acts for drugs, food, shelter, protection, other basics of life, and/or money.

- Exploitation can occur at home, school, in public places like the mall, or online
- People who sexually exploit children and youth are usually friendly at first, older males or people known to the child/youth
- Sex workers do not typically lure children into sex work.

What is Online Sexual Exploitation?

The use of online messaging, website recruiting scams, and online chats which sexually humiliate, manipulate or are harmful.

Can also include:

- Luring youth to another city or country
- Engaging in sexual activities online i.e. cybersex, home based stripping
- Sending, creating, or distributing sexual images of anyone under 18 including yourself

Some reasons given by youth for their entry into the sex trade include:

- family issues, being kicked out of the home
- someone in their family is involved in the sex trade
- influence of friends and peers
- attraction to the perceived glamour of street life
- to support themselves and/or their family