

Understanding Childhood Exploitation

Awareness, Support and Prevention



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Understanding Childhood Exploitation

The sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of children, youth and adults is a serious concern in Manitoba, Canada, and around the globe. Children and youth who have been sexually exploited are victims of child sexual abuse.

The Manitoba Strategy Responding to Children and Youth at Risk of, or Survivors of, Sexual Exploitation was launched in December 2002 as directed by the Manitoba Government's Healthy Child Committee of Cabinet. The Department of Families is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Manitoba Strategy, with other partner departments and agencies leading specific responses within the Strategy. The Strategy includes initiatives in the areas of prevention, intervention, legislation, coordination, research and evaluation.

For the purposes of the Manitoba Strategy, child sexual exploitation is: the act of coercing, luring or engaging a child, under the age of 18, into a sexual act, and involvement in the sex trade or pornography, with or without the child's consent, in exchange for money, drugs, shelter, food, protection or other necessities.

This is a broader definition than that used in The Child Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking Act.



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Tracia's Trust

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Manitoba's Sexual Exploitation Strategy is comprised of multiple initiatives in the areas of prevention, intervention, legislation, coordination, research and evaluation. The Strategy encompasses the coordination of services for all ages, including children, youth and adults, as well as all forms of sexual exploitation, including human trafficking, pornography, sex trafficking, sex tourism and internet luring.



Tracia's Trust

The Manitoba government launched its sexual exploitation strategy in 2002 and renamed it Tracia's Trust (in 2008) in memory of Tracia Owen, a 14-year-old who was sexually exploited and died by suicide in 2005.

Intervention services help individuals who have been victims of sexual exploitation, are at high risk of being sexually exploited, and/or are engaged in the sex trade.

The Street Reach program is one example of a front line focused intervention service to locate vulnerable missing youth and return them to their placement or place of safety while building safe and trusting relationships.

The goal of intervention is to provide healing supports and help transition the person out of the sex trade.

Every year, Tracia's Trust funds numerous non-governmental organizations to intervene in the sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of children, youth, and adults in Manitoba.



Our Event

AGENDA
Guest Speakers & Presenters

Opening Ceremony
Led by Elder Carol

Guest Speaker
Lived Experience Perspective
Shamin Brown

Guest Speaker
Joy Smith Foundation
Hidden in Plain Sight
Janet Campbell

Lunch and Wellness Break
Catering by Mighty Kiwi

Presentation
Survivors Hope Crisis Centre
Digital Boundaries
Natasha Van Dorp & Chantal Shibata

Guest Presentation
EmpowerMen
The Role of Men: Engaging Men and Boys in Prevention
Hennes Doltze, Geraldine Gruszczyk

Guest Wellness Workshop
Guided Meditation
Sanative Sound Bath

Resources and Networking
Q&A

Lunch Menu
Catering by
Mighty Kiwi

Sandwich & Wraps

- Chicken Caesar Wrap
- Thai Chicken Wrap
- Santa Fe Wrap
- Chicken & Cheese Sandwich,
- Chicken Pesto Sandwich
- Chickpea Caesar Sandwich.

Salads

- Cranberry Walnut Salad
- Caesar Salad

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MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

Health and Wellness

To ensure this event truly embodies the values of Survivor's Hope, we have integrated a holistic "Health and Wellness" framework. This approach recognizes that discussing Childhood Sexual Exploitation is emotionally demanding and requires a space that supports the mind, body, and spirit of every participant—whether they are joining us in the room or from their own space.

Support

To truly provide "wrap-around" care, this workshop goes beyond individual learning. Survivor's Hope has collaborated with a network of Manitoba-based organizations to ensure that every participant—whether a survivor, a family member, or a service provider—leaves with a clear roadmap of the provincial supports available.

Advocacy

The Power of Truth: Advocacy Through Lived Experience
At the heart of the Understanding Childhood Sexual Exploitation workshop was the courage of our guest speakers. To advocate effectively, we must listen to those who have walked the path from exploitation to reclamation.



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Guest Speakers and Presenters

Wellness & Support	Guest Speaker	Presentors
Elder Carol	Shamin Brown	Empowermen
Sanative Sound	Amanda Lived Experience Perspective	Joy Smith Foundation
Mighty Kiwi	Survivors Hope Crisis Centre	Survivor's Hope Crisis Centre

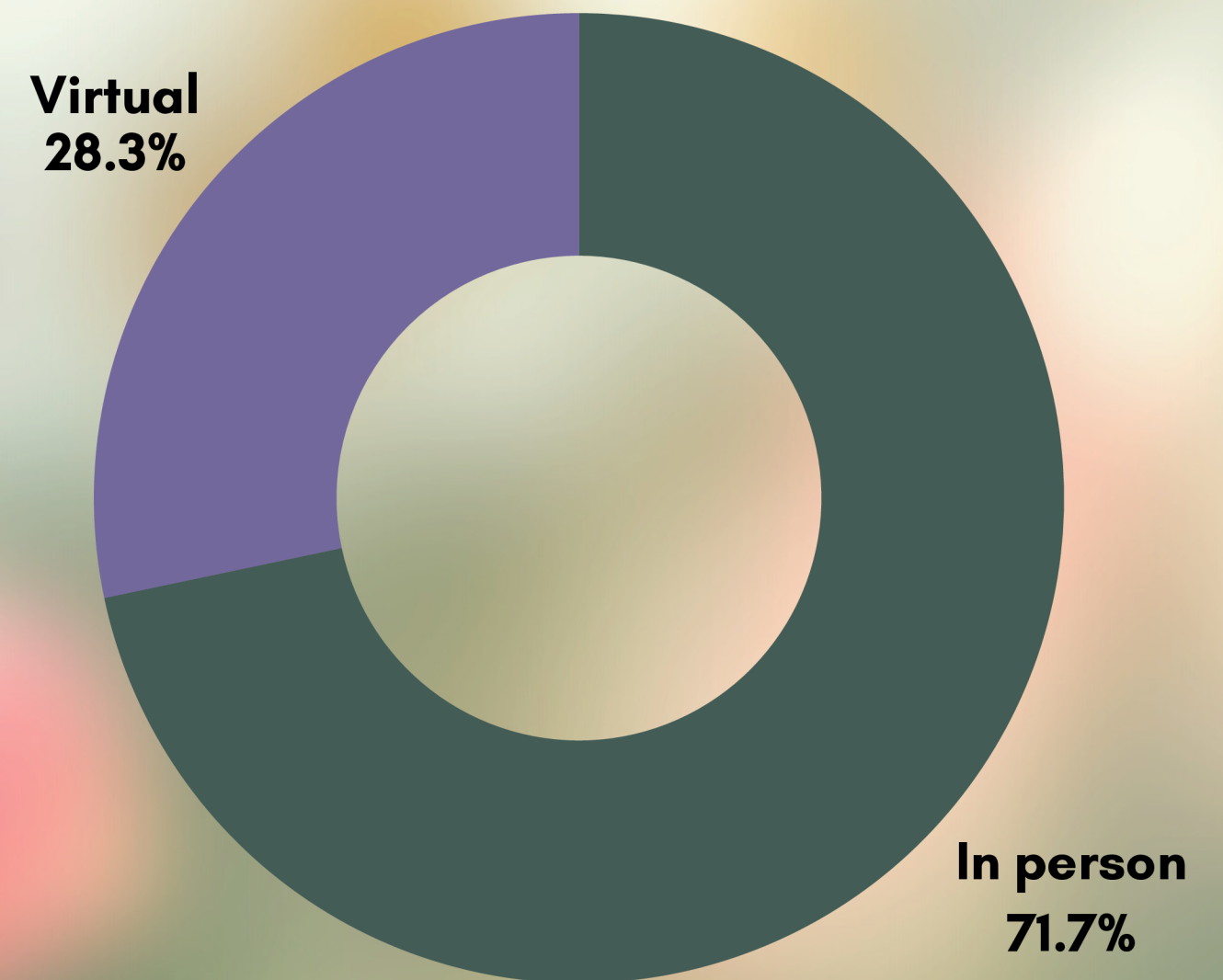
Accessibility

On March 9th, Survivor's Hope hosted a specialized workshop, Understanding Childhood Sexual Exploitation, designed to break the silence surrounding youth exploitation. Recognizing the diverse needs of our community—from rural service providers to urban educators—the event was delivered through a fully accessible hybrid model, ensuring that geography and physical barriers did not prevent anyone from accessing this critical training.

The primary goal of this workshop was to provide a "no-barrier" environment for learning. By offering In-Person and Virtual attendance options, we achieved a higher level of participation and inclusivity



Attendance



Participant Feedback



“thank so much for including board members in this topic, it was hard to hear”

“my heart, I cant even put my self in their shoes”

“that meditation sound bath -wow, what a way to end the day, I feel so calm”,

“ Learning about programs that I wasn't aware of and the services/supports that they provide was very helpful and informative”

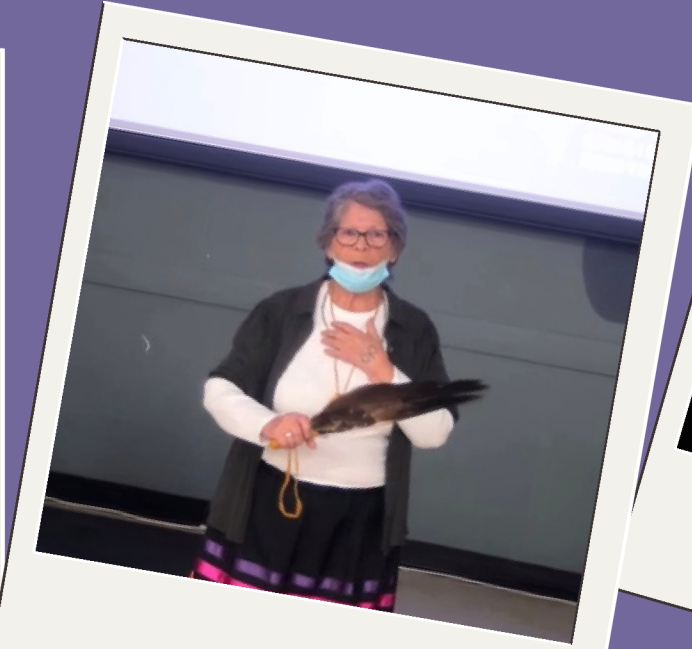
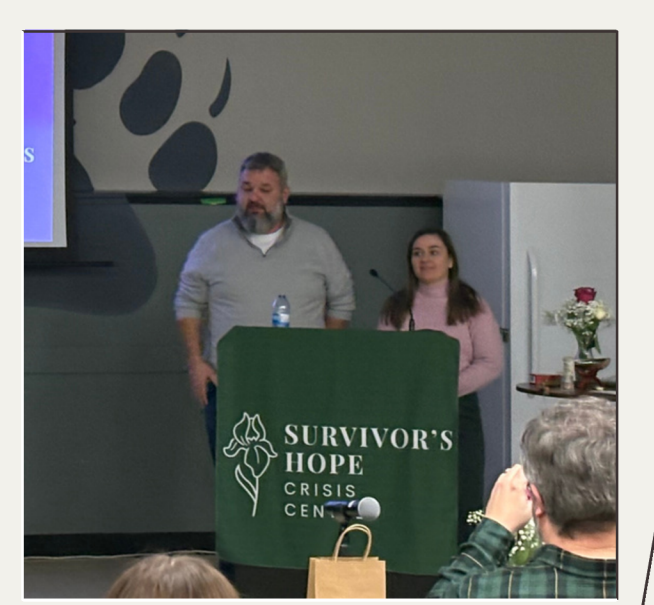
“Hearing from the speakers with lived experience was very impactful”



“The survivor-led tone of this gathering was much appreciated. I think this was a well put together day and provided a lot of valuable information.”

“Others were impacted and were learning a lot! Well done and thank you.”

Photos from the event



Thank you



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Resources and Links

Survivors Hope

<https://survivors-hope.ca>

Joy Smith Foundation

<https://joysmithfoundation.com>

Empowermen

<https://empowermen.ca>

Traicia's Trust

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/traciustrust>



Sanitve Sound Bath

<https://sanativesoundbath.com>

Shamin Brown Consulting

<https://shaminbrown.wordpress.com>

The Mighty Kiwi

<https://www.themightykiwi.ca>



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