

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT

Human trafficking is a form of modern slavery in which people are illegally forced into labour or commercial sex. Traffickers use force, fraud, coercion, abduction, deception, torture, and the abuse of power to exploit their victims and the victims' vulnerability. We recognize the suffering that human trafficking causes and have a "zero tolerance" for any form of slavery or human trafficking in our operations and in the organizations we interact with. Therefore, we have a responsibility to ensure that measures are implemented to reduce the risk of human trafficking and slavery.

THE COMMERCIAL TRUCKING INDUSTRY

Alberta's trucking sector is vital to our province and country, driving all aspects of our economy forward. The trucking industry is also ideally positioned to assist the effort to defeat trafficking through awareness and education.

Sex trafficking can be present at truck stops and rest areas due to their remote locations and the dominant male customer base facilities. These locations are often insulated from local communities making them convenient places for transient customers to purchase sex with minimal concerns of detection. Also, because these locations are often geographically isolated it can make it difficult for victims to leave their situations and get help. Traffickers frequently move their victims without interference or undue attention.

These factors make it more likely that individuals in our industry might come into contact with victims of human trafficking, and through awareness might be able to identify and assist these victims.

EXPLOITED INDIVIDUALS – WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Human trafficking targets are highly vulnerable individuals. The trafficking recruiter preys upon this vulnerability by initially building trust and offering safety and support. Once this trust is built, the trafficker begins their exploitation. Money and identification are taken away making it difficult to run away. Drugs are often used to initially subdue the victim and then the trafficker coerces or manipulates the victim into performing commercial sex. These means of controlling the victim make it very difficult for them to escape and when they do escape, they are often in need of immediate assistance.

SIGNS THAT INDICATE AN EXPLOITED PERSON

There are certain signs that might indicate human trafficking is taking place:

- Not allowed or able to speak for themselves;
- Lack of knowledge of a given community or whereabouts;

- Are fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, nervous, or paranoid;
- Inconsistencies providing information and lack of ID;
- Appears malnourished, sleep deprived, or in need of medical care;
- Shows signs of ownership, such as tattoos, brands, and jewelry, used by traffickers to mark their property;
- Multiple cell phones;
- Hotel room keys;
- Is involved in the solicitation of commercial sex.

DO NO HARM

When dealing with suspected cases of sexual exploitation and trafficking, act with care and caution. Under no circumstances should the suspected victim or concerned individual be compromised. Do not try to combat traffickers on your own.

WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP

Our company, through the Alberta Motor Transport Association (AMTA), has partnered with #NotInMyCity (#NIMC), which is an organization within Alberta and across Canada that collaborates with law enforcement, victim service providers, survivor advocates, and Indigenous and community leaders. Partnering with #NIMC enables us to build relationships with the above agencies, share suspicions with law enforcement, stay up to date on trends, and provide additional training. Through awareness and education, we will be better able to identify victims of human trafficking and contact respective authorities when necessary.

SPECIFIC WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Participate in and share the education program on human trafficking that is offered;
- Look for other ways to support the education and anti-human trafficking ideas in our company;
- Talk about the issue with the people in your close circle and community;
- Build awareness and action by amplifying the message on social media and engaging with awareness campaigns;
- Call 911 if someone is in need of emergency support. Do not try to combat traffickers on your own;
- Call 211 if you or someone you know needs resources or services in Alberta;
- Contact Canada's National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-833-900-1010 if you are outside Alberta and want more information or know someone who may need help.