

AN INVESTIGATIVE NON-FICTION

HUB OF SHADOWS

*Unmasking Human Trafficking
in Greater Moncton*

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LANDRY INDUSTRIES INC. · MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK

HUB OF SHADOWS: UNMASKING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN GREATER MONCTON

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All sources were confirmed by live web search on 8 October 2026 and are cited inline. Accused persons named in this book are presumed innocent unless and until convicted.

If you or someone you know is affected by human trafficking, call the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-833-900-1010 (24/7). In an emergency, call 911.

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FRONT MATTER

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Human trafficking is not a big-city problem that occasionally passes through Moncton. It is a crime that has been charged, investigated and survived here, in residences on Ward Street and in Dieppe, by people who were brought to the region from elsewhere and by people who left it under someone else's control. This book was written to replace rumour with record.

SCOPE

The book covers Greater Moncton (Moncton, Dieppe, Riverview and the surrounding Westmorland and Albert county communities) and places the region within the Maritime and national picture. It addresses sex trafficking, labour trafficking and the coercive control that binds both. It does not cover human smuggling except where Canadian law groups the two.

METHOD AND SOURCING STANDARD

Every factual claim in this book was confirmed by live web search in October 2026 and is linked to its source. Primary sources were preferred: Statistics Canada Juristat releases, RCMP and municipal police news releases, Government of New Brunswick and Government of Canada documents, court records and established news outlets. Where a source page could only be confirmed through its search listing, the link is still given so readers can verify it.

No case, quotation or number in this book was invented. Where data do not exist, the text says so. Accused persons named here are presumed innocent unless and until convicted; charges described are allegations as of the date of the source.

WHAT THE NUMBERS CAN AND CANNOT TELL US

Police-reported statistics count only what is detected and recorded. Statistics Canada itself states that the true size of human trafficking in Canada is unknown ([Statistics Canada, 2025](#)). Every figure here is therefore a floor, not a ceiling.

CONTENT NOTE

This book describes sexual exploitation, coercion and violence, including against minors. It does so at the level of patterns and institutional response. It does not reproduce recruitment scripts or operational detail that could help an exploiter. Readers affected by these issues will find support contacts in the final section.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **New Brunswick's police-reported trafficking rate in 2024 exceeded the national rate.** Police in the province recorded 17 incidents in 2024, a rate of 2.0 per 100,000, against 1.5 for Canada as a whole ([Statistics Canada, Table 1, 2025](#)).
- **Moncton has documented cases in both directions.** In April 2024 Codiac Regional RCMP located two young people reported missing from Ontario and an adult woman from Quebec in Moncton and Dieppe, and charged a local 18-year-old ([RCMP, 2024](#)). In November 2024 Ottawa police charged a 36-year-old Moncton woman with trafficking offences, with help from the Codiac Crime Reduction Unit ([Ottawa Police Service, 2024](#)).
- **Victims are overwhelmingly young women and girls who know their trafficker.** Nationally from 2014 to 2024, 93% of identified victims were women and girls, two-thirds of them under 25, and women most often had an intimate relationship with the accused ([Statistics Canada, 2025](#)).
- **The response gap is local.** Most detected cases come from the largest urban centres, which suggests that smaller hubs like Moncton are under-detected rather than untouched. The final chapters set out a multi-agency, intelligence-led model to close that gap.

PART I

THE GEOGRAPHY OF VULNERABILITY

CHAPTER 1

THE CROSSROADS NODE

Moncton sits on the Trans-Canada Highway segment that Canada's national anti-trafficking charity identifies as the most-cited trafficking corridor in Atlantic Canada. That single fact frames the rest of this book.

THE HUB CITY ADVANTAGE

Moncton earned the name "Hub City" as a railway town. Its modern prosperity began in 1871, when it became headquarters of the Intercolonial Railway ([Moncton, Wikipedia summary of municipal history](#)). Today the same geography makes it the junction where traffic from Halifax, Saint John, Fredericton, Prince Edward Island and Quebec converges.

The Greater Moncton Roméo LeBlanc International Airport, located in Dieppe, handled 661,629 passengers in 2024, a 10.2% increase over 2023. The airport also reported 1,438 domestic and 33 international cargo movements that year and describes itself as the leading airport in the central Maritimes ([Greater Moncton International Airport Authority, March 2025](#)).

Highway, rail and air connections are economic assets. They are also the infrastructure of trafficking. In 2021 the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking published the first national study of trafficking corridors. It defined a corridor as a transport route linking two or more major cities that traffickers use to move people between sites of exploitation ([Blue Line, October 2021](#)). The study found that constant movement keeps victims confused, isolated and dependent on their traffickers ([CCEHT, February 2021](#)). It also found that cars are the most common transport, that traffickers often rent several vehicles along one route, and that police were seeing more use of short-term stays ([CTV News via KVIA, February 2021](#)).

THE HALIFAX–MONCTON CORRIDOR

The Halifax-to-Moncton stretch of the Trans-Canada was the corridor most frequently mentioned by Atlantic respondents to the Centre's research. Researchers reported that traffickers travel to Moncton to reach its commercial sex market, including strip clubs, and to recruit young women whom they then bring back to Halifax. Victims may then be moved on to Montreal or Toronto ([CBC News, March 2021](#)).

Truro, Nova Scotia, sits between the two cities. A Truro sexual assault centre told CBC that the town functions as a stopping point between Moncton and Halifax ([CBC News, 2019](#)). The RCMP's Nova Scotia trafficking coordinator told The Globe and Mail that the province is known in policing circles as an exporter of trafficking victims, and Toronto's trafficking unit reported routinely receiving cases involving victims from Atlantic Canada ([The Globe and Mail](#)).

Statistics Canada's 2023 trafficking release repeats this finding. It notes that prior advocate and police research places Nova Scotia, and Halifax in particular, on a corridor used to move victims out of Atlantic Canada. Halifax alone accounted for 287 police-reported incidents from 2013 to 2023, or 6% of the national total ([Statistics Canada, The Daily, November 2024](#)). Moncton is the other end of that road.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC UNDERCURRENTS

The conditions that traffickers exploit have intensified in Greater Moncton since 2021.

Rapid growth. The Moncton census metropolitan area grew from 178,599 to 188,036 people between 2023 and 2024, the second-fastest growth rate of any metro in the country. Statistics Canada attributed most of it to international migration ([CBC News, January 2025](#)). An Atlantic Economic Council report found Moncton again led the region from July 2024 to July 2025, with about 3% growth to roughly 196,000 residents ([Global News, 2026](#)).

Homelessness. The Human Development Council's November 2024 point-in-time count found 518 people experiencing homelessness in Moncton, including people in shelters, encampments, transitional housing and couch surfing ([Hu-](#)

man Development Council, 2025). A 2025 University of New Brunswick research note records that Moncton had the province's highest homelessness figures and that the city's homeless population was only 59 in 2016 (Journal of New Brunswick Studies, 2025). The YMCA of Greater Moncton has said hidden homelessness, especially among couch-surfing youth, means the true number is higher (CBC News, 2024).

These are not causes of trafficking. They are the conditions that make recruitment easier: a young person without stable housing has fewer people watching, fewer places to go and more reason to accept an offer of shelter or money.

THE MYTH OF ISOLATION

The belief that trafficking belongs to Toronto, Montreal or Vancouver is contradicted by the data. Statistics Canada reports that 83% of police-reported incidents in 2024 were in Canada's largest urban centres (Statistics Canada, 2025). That is a statement about where cases are detected, not where victims are recruited. The corridor research shows that victims recruited in smaller centres such as Moncton are routinely exploited, and therefore counted, in larger ones.

The Centre's director put it plainly at the corridor report's launch: trafficking exists in every community in Canada (CCEHT, 2021). Moncton's own court and police records, examined in Chapter 3, show it is no exception.

CHAPTER 2

GROOMING AND RECRUITMENT VECTORS

Most trafficking in Canada begins not with abduction but with a relationship. Nationally, 91% of police-identified victims since 2013 knew their accused trafficker ([Statistics Canada, November 2024](#)), and from 2014 to 2024 the most common relationship for women and girl victims was an intimate partner, at 36% ([Statistics Canada, 2025](#)). Recruitment is personal, and that is why it goes unnoticed.

This chapter describes recruitment at the level of patterns so that parents, educators and front-line workers can recognize it. It deliberately does not reproduce the scripts or step-by-step methods exploiters use.

THE RELATIONSHIP MODEL

RCMP guidance describes traffickers who first present as boyfriends, cultivating feelings of love in the victim and promising protection or a better life ([RCMP guidance as reported by Western Wheel](#)). Public Safety Canada notes that traffickers recruit strategically, that exploitation can also happen inside families, and that sex can be exchanged for drugs or alcohol rather than money ([Public Safety Canada, "How human trafficking works"](#)).

The Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking's hotline data reinforce that exploiters may be peers, friends, partners or even parents ([CTV News, 2025](#)). Hotline trend reporting for 2019–2024 links trafficking closely with intimate partner violence ([CCEHT, Human Trafficking Trends in Canada 2019–2024](#)).

The New Brunswick picture matches. A women's advocate told CBC in 2018 that young people aged roughly 15 to 22 in the province are especially vulnerable and high-risk, and warned that the belief "it can't happen here" gives traffickers an advantage ([CBC News, December 2018](#)).

DIGITAL FOOTPRINTS

Recruitment increasingly starts online. Ottawa police told CTV that, alongside traditional in-person approaches, they were seeing potential traffickers make first contact online ([CTV News Ottawa](#)). Online platforms also drive the commercial side: in the April 2024 Moncton case described in Chapter 3, the accused was charged with advertising an offer of sexual services ([RCMP, April 2024](#)).

New Brunswick has had a formal online-safety partnership since 2014. That year the province signed an agreement with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection to promote its programs and add the Kids in the Know safety curriculum to public schools ([Canadian Centre for Child Protection, 2014](#)). Whether that curriculum keeps pace with current platforms is an open question this book could not answer from public sources.

THE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY PERIMETER

Ontario has required all publicly funded schools to train staff and deliver anti-trafficking curriculum since 2021, according to a 2025 article in the University of New Brunswick journal *Antistasis* ([Morin, 2025](#)). This book found no equivalent mandatory province-wide requirement in New Brunswick in public sources as of October 2026. Prevention in New Brunswick schools has instead relied on general online-safety curricula and on visits by community charities ([CBC News, 2018](#)).

The province's child welfare system is another perimeter. Statistics Canada lists youth in care among the groups at particular risk of trafficking ([Statistics Canada, 2025](#)). New Brunswick's Child, Youth and Seniors' Advocate reviewed the care system in *Through Their Eyes*, which identified gaps in information gathering and in recognizing the rights of children in care, and made 21 recommendations

(CTV News, 2022). The report addresses youth homelessness and youth leaving care, the transition points where traffickers find young people with no one watching (Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, *Through Their Eyes*, 2022).

THE MECHANICS OF COERCION

Modern trafficking rarely relies on locked doors. It relies on control that is harder to see:

- **Emotional dependence.** Victims may not call their exploiter a trafficker and may describe him as a boyfriend (University of Windsor anti-sex-trafficking module, 2026).
- **Isolation by movement.** The corridor research in Chapter 1 shows that constant relocation leaves victims disoriented and dependent (CCEHT, 2021).
- **Control of documents.** The Ottawa charges against a Moncton woman in 2024 included withholding travel or identity documents and uttering a forged passport (Ottawa Police Service, 2024; Country 94, 2024).
- **Violence and threat.** The same case included assault, assault with a weapon and uttering threats.
- **Substance dependence.** Public Safety Canada notes that exploitation may be paid for in drugs or alcohol (Public Safety Canada).

WARNING SIGNS FOR FAMILIES AND EDUCATORS

The RCMP's Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre has listed signs including sudden expensive gifts or services a young person could not afford, becoming unreachable or moving away abruptly with a new partner, and losing control of identity documents. The RCMP also suspects some missing-person cases are trafficking cases (RCMP Gazette, 2019). Ontario's government adds a new partner who is kept away from family and friends (Government of Ontario).

The RCMP cautions that no single sign proves trafficking; it is the combination of indicators that warrants a closer look (Western Wheel). The right response is not confrontation but contact: the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline (1-833-900-1010) takes calls from worried family members as well as victims.

PART II

THE ANATOMY OF THE TRADE

CHAPTER 3

SEX TRAFFICKING IN ATLANTIC CANADA

Greater Moncton has produced at least one trafficking conviction, two other trafficking prosecutions and a trafficking-linked investigation reaching into Ontario between 2024 and 2026. Each began with a small, specific observation by someone who acted on it.

DOMESTIC REALITIES

Canada's trafficking victims are mostly Canadians. RCMP's national coordination centre has reported that 95% of the cases it sees happen within Canada, that 93% of those involve the sexual exploitation of young women, and that roughly a quarter of victims are under 18 ([RCMP Gazette, 2019](#)). Statistics Canada reports that about one in four police-identified victims from 2013 to 2023 were under 18 ([Statistics Canada, November 2024](#)).

New Brunswick's own numbers are small but rising. Police in the province reported 10 trafficking incidents in 2019 ([Statistics Canada, 2021](#)), none in 2020 (2022), 3 in 2021 (2022), 12 in 2022 (2023), 11 in 2023 (2024) and 17 in 2024 (2025). The 2024 figure gives New Brunswick a rate of 2.0 per 100,000, higher than Canada's 1.5. Nova Scotia's 2023 rate, at 6.3, was among the highest in the country.

Years earlier, a member of the New Brunswick Working Group on Human Trafficking observed that young women and girls were most often lured out of the province toward the sex trade in Quebec or farther west ([CTV Atlantic](#)). The cases below show the flow now runs in both directions.

THE CASE RECORD, 2024–2026

Date	Event	Source
Sept 2026	Codiac RCMP charged a 45-year-old Moncton man with trafficking a person under 18, among other offences, after a child-luring investigation that located his vehicle at a Mountain Road hotel. He was remanded in custody; the case is before the court.	RCMP, Sept 2026
Jan 2026	Hampton RCMP and the Southeast Crime Reduction Unit charged a 44-year-old Hampton-area man with human trafficking, sexual assault and other offences involving multiple adult women in Moncton, Saint John and Hampton. A publication ban protects his identity.	RCMP, Jan 2026
Feb 2025	A 19-year-old woman whose name is under a publication ban was sentenced in Moncton provincial court to three years (4.5 years before remand credit) for recruiting two girls, aged 15 and 16, bringing them to Moncton from another province and advertising them for sexual services in April 2024.	CBC News, 2025
Nov 2024	Ottawa police charged a 36-year-old Moncton woman with trafficking and related offences against one victim between 2019 and 2024, assisted by the Codiac Crime Reduction Unit, the OPP and FINTRAC.	Ottawa Police Service, 2024
Apr 2024	Codiac RCMP located two young people reported missing from Ontario and an adult woman from Quebec at residences in Moncton and Dieppe, and charged an 18-year-old local woman.	RCMP, Apr 2024

All accused not yet convicted are presumed innocent.

ANATOMY OF A MONCTON CASE

The February 2025 sentencing offers the most detailed public account of how a trafficking operation worked in Moncton. According to the agreed statement of facts read in court, the accused paid to bring two girls aged 15 and 16 to Moncton from another province, photographed them and used the images in online advertisements. The Crown said about 15 men met the girls over several days ([CBC News, 2025](#)).

The operation was interrupted by a taxi driver. He became suspicious while dropping off one of the girls and called police. That single call led to the rescue.

The case also illustrates how trafficking reproduces itself. The accused told the court she began selling sex in her early teens to survive after her mother died. Her lawyer said she had been recruited by others and then moved from victim to exploiter. The Crown referred to the crimes being committed for a criminal organization, which the defence did not admit. The judge described the girls as being in an unfamiliar city, far from home, and feeling they had no choice ([CBC News, 2025](#)).

The April 2024 RCMP investigation in Moncton and Dieppe drew on an unusually wide set of units: Codiac's General Investigation Section, its Crime Reduction Unit and Victim Services, J Division forensic and digital forensic teams, the Internet Child Exploitation Unit, the provincial Department of Justice and Public Safety, and Social Development's child protection staff ([RCMP, 2024](#)). That list is effectively a blueprint for the multi-agency model proposed in Chapter 7.

THE CIRCUIT MODEL

The 2024–2026 record maps neatly onto the corridor research. Victims were brought to Moncton from Ontario and Quebec. A Moncton resident was charged for exploitation in Ottawa. A 2026 case linked Moncton to Saint John and Hampton along Route 1. Advocates in Nova Scotia report the same pattern on the Halifax side, with Truro as a midpoint ([CBC News, 2021](#)).

A mother interviewed by an Annapolis Valley newspaper said her daughter was trafficked in Halifax, Moncton, Brampton, Mississauga, Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer and Grande Prairie ([Annapolis Valley Register via PressReader, 2022](#)). That itinerary is the circuit model in a single life.

HOTELS, MOTELS AND RENTAL UNITS

The Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking's director told HR Reporter that hotels and short-term accommodations are overwhelmingly where trafficking takes place ([HR Reporter](#)). The corridor report noted police were seeing more use of short-term stays, which complicates investigations ([CTV News via KVIA, 2021](#)). Moncton's own cases involved private residences and, in 2026, a hotel parking lot on Mountain Road.

The hospitality sector has responded with voluntary training. *Not in Our Hotel* is a free national program for accommodation staff, launched in partnership with provincial hotel associations ([Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador](#); [Hotel Association of Canada](#)). Other jurisdictions have gone further. Ontario's 2021 strategy legislation proposed requiring hotels and short-term rentals to retain guest registers and share them with police without a court order ([The Globe and Mail, 2021](#)). Winnipeg requires short-term rental operators to post trafficking signage ([City of Winnipeg](#)). This book found no comparable municipal requirement in Moncton or Dieppe.

CHAPTER 4

LABOUR TRAFFICKING AND ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION

No labour trafficking prosecution in Greater Moncton surfaced in public sources for this book. That absence is a gap in detection, not proof of innocence: New Brunswick has issued record federal sanctions against employers of migrant workers, and a lawsuit alleging exploitation has been argued at the Moncton courthouse.

THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM

Labour trafficking is the fastest-growing category reported to Canada's national hotline. In 2024, labour trafficking cases reported to the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline rose more than 300% over the 2020–2022 average ([ACT Alberta summary of CCEHT report, 2025](#)). The Centre notes labour trafficking victims are often temporary migrant workers ([CTV News, 2025](#)).

Statistics Canada data show a distinct profile for male victims. From 2014 to 2024, men and boys were most often trafficked by someone with whom they had a business relationship (46%), and they were older and more often part of multi-victim incidents than women and girls ([Statistics Canada, 2025](#)).

TRANSIENT WORKFORCES

In 2023 the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, Tomoya Obokata, completed a 14-day visit to Canada. He warned that the agricultural and low-wage streams of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program create conditions in which contemporary slavery can take hold, and urged a clear route to permanent residency for migrants ([CBC News, September 2023](#); [OHCHR press release via Migrant Workers Rights](#)). His central concern was the employer-specific

(closed) work permit, which ties a worker’s legal status to one employer and makes complaining risky ([Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](#)). During that visit he met seafood-processing workers in New Brunswick ([NB Media Co-op, 2025](#)).

Seafood processing dominates New Brunswick’s temporary foreign workforce. NB Media Co-op, citing federal immigration data, reports that 65% of the province’s temporary foreign workers are hired in seafood plants ([NB Media Co-op, April 2025](#)). An earlier CBC report put the number at more than 2,000 workers ([CBC News](#)).

Those plants are mostly on the Acadian Peninsula and the coast, not in Moncton. But Moncton is where those cases reach the courts, where many migrants pass through the airport and the bus terminal, and where many settle once they leave a rural employer. It is also home to a large international student population: the Université de Moncton reports that international students make up more than 35% of its student body ([Global News, 2023](#)).

ENFORCEMENT RECORD IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Date	Event	Source
Oct 2025	Ottawa fined Bolero Shellfish Processing of Saint-Simon \$1 million and banned it from hiring temporary foreign workers for 10 years, the largest fine in the program's history.	NB Media Co-op, Oct 2025
2025	Pêcheries LeBreton received a further \$90,000 fine for insufficient efforts to prevent abuse; it was one of seven New Brunswick companies sanctioned under federal foreign-worker programs that year.	Frequency News
Sept 2024	Two Mexican workers sued Pêcheries LeBreton of Grande-Anse, alleging exploitation, breach of contract and bad-faith dismissal during the 2023 season. The case was ongoing.	CTV Atlantic, 2024
Apr 2024	Ottawa fined Pêcheries LeBreton \$365,750 and banned it from hiring temporary foreign workers for two years, then a program record.	NB Media Co-op, Sept 2024

These are administrative and civil actions, not criminal trafficking charges. The distinction matters. The U.S. State Department’s 2025 report on Canada noted that courts may acquit on trafficking charges while convicting on other offences

([U.S. State Department 2025 TIP Report via ecoi.net](#)), and its 2024 report described Canada's protections for forced-labour victims as inadequate ([CTV News, 2025](#)).

WAGE THEFT AND DEBT ISOLATION

The mechanics of labour exploitation are financial. Advocates with the Migrant Workers Alliance for Change say some New Brunswick employers sign workers to contracts guaranteeing regular hours, then do not pay them when there is no work. The LeBreton lawsuit cites a contractual minimum of 30 hours a week over the season ([CTV Atlantic, 2024](#); [NB Media Co-op, 2024](#)). Housing is often employer-provided, so losing a job can mean losing a home.

Debt starts before arrival. A Globe and Mail investigation identified 45 immigration consultants, recruiters and employment agents accused of exploiting at least 2,300 foreign students and workers through excessive or illegal fees and false promises of permanent residency ([The Globe and Mail](#)). In Moncton, the Université de Moncton's international student association reported students arriving with fake admission letters from fraudulent agencies, and others losing money to rental scams ([Global News, 2023](#)).

THE LEGAL SHIELD AND ITS HOLES

New Brunswick has had specific protections since amendments to its Employment Standards Act took effect on 1 September 2014. Employers who recruit foreign workers must register annually. Employers and recruiters may not seize a worker's passport or work permit, cut promised wages or change terms after recruitment, misrepresent the job, or require workers to use an immigration consultant ([Stewart McKelvey via Mondaq, 2014](#); [Bill 22, Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick](#)).

What New Brunswick still lacks is recruiter licensing. Nova Scotia has required foreign-worker recruiters to be licensed since 1 May 2013 ([Stewart McKelvey](#)). New Brunswick's Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour consulted until 12 June 2026 on amendments that would introduce a recruiter licensing requirement ([Government of New Brunswick, 2026](#)). As of this writing, the outcome had not been announced in sources this book could find.

THE FEDERAL ESCAPE HATCH

Since June 2019, workers on employer-specific permits who face abuse, or the risk of it, can apply for an Open Work Permit for Vulnerable Workers. It lets them leave and work for almost any employer, and applications are assessed on a lower evidentiary threshold of reasonable grounds to believe ([IRCC, Question Period Note, 2024](#); [IRCC, CIMM briefing, February 2024](#)). IRCC had issued 7,260 such permits nationally by 31 July 2024.

In New Brunswick, the number of holders has risen every year since the program launched, reaching 170 by the end of the third quarter of 2025, already a record ([NB Media Co-op, December 2025](#)). Each one represents a worker the federal government had reasonable grounds to believe was being abused or was at risk.

PART III

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE AND COUNTER-MEASURES

CHAPTER 5

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND INTELLIGENCE GAPS

Nationally, only about one completed trafficking court case in ten ends in a guilty finding. From 2013/2014 to 2023/2024, 84% of the 1,281 completed adult cases with a trafficking charge were stayed, withdrawn, dismissed or discharged ([Statistics Canada, December 2025](#)). The weak link is not arrest alone; it is the whole path from detection to verdict.

THE ATTRITION FUNNEL

Statistics Canada's figures describe a steep drop at every stage:

1. **Detection.** Police recorded 5,070 incidents from 2014 to 2024 ([Statistics Canada, 2025](#)). The agency itself says the true extent is unknown.
2. **Solving.** For 2013–2023, 58% of incidents had no resolution, whether because investigation was ongoing, evidence was insufficient or no suspect was identified ([CTV News, 2024](#)).
3. **Charging.** Only 38% of police-reported incidents since 2013 led to charges being laid or recommended (same source).
4. **Court.** Trafficking cases averaged 18 charges each and took about twice as long as other violent-offence cases to finish. Only 10% ended in a guilty finding ([Statistics Canada, 2025](#)).

Part of the gap is legal substitution. The U.S. State Department's 2025 report observed that Canadian courts may acquit on trafficking counts yet convict on related offences ([U.S. State Department via ecoi.net](#)). The 2025 Moncton sentencing in Chapter 3 is a reminder that prosecutors can and do secure trafficking convictions here, often through guilty pleas.

JURISDICTIONAL FRICTION

Greater Moncton is policed under contract by the Codiac Regional RCMP, which serves Moncton, Dieppe and Riverview and more than 144,000 residents (RCMP, 2024). Moncton had its own municipal force until the late 1990s, when the province disbanded it and required a switch to the RCMP (CBC News, 2023). Moncton pays about 70% of the cost, Dieppe about 19% and Riverview about 11% (CBC News, 2025).

The force has been stretched by the region's growth. Its officer in charge said in 2024 that Codiac had far fewer officers per capita than comparable forces for one of Canada's fastest-growing communities (CTV News Atlantic). The 2025 budget rose 19.61% and added 17 officers, bringing strength from 156 to 173 (RCMP, 2024; CTV News Atlantic). In September 2025 the civilian policing authority narrowly approved 15 more officers for 2026, by a 5–4 vote, while councils demanded data on whether the previous increase had reduced crime (CBC News, 2025).

The RCMP contract runs to 2032. A 2023 Perivale + Taylor review recommended keeping the RCMP but reported difficulty measuring workload because of how RCMP internal systems track cases and deployment (Global News, 2023; CBC News, 2023). That observation matters for trafficking: if a force cannot readily measure its own caseload, it cannot easily see a slow-building pattern of exploitation.

Trafficking also crosses every boundary on the map. The cases in Chapter 3 required coordination among Codiac, J Division specialist units, the Southeast and Hampton detachments, provincial Justice and Public Safety, Social Development, the Ottawa Police Service, the Ontario Provincial Police and FINTRAC (RCMP, 2024; Ottawa Police Service, 2024; RCMP, 2026).

THE INTELLIGENCE DEFICIT

Ottawa and Toronto have dedicated human trafficking units. The Ottawa Police Service's unit led the 2024 case against a Moncton resident (Ottawa Police Service, 2024). This book found no public reference to a dedicated trafficking unit within Codiac Regional RCMP; Moncton cases have been handled by its General Investigation Section and Crime Reduction Unit with specialist support.

New Brunswick does have strong capacity in a related field. The RCMP's Internet Child Exploitation Unit, which includes members from the Kennebecasis Regional Police Force, has produced a steady series of convictions in Moncton Provincial Court in 2025 and 2026 ([RCMP, July 2026](#); [RCMP, May 2026](#)). That unit also assisted in the April 2024 trafficking case. Its model of a dedicated, specialist, provincially-mandated team is the obvious template for trafficking.

The province has also lacked a current public strategy. Partners for Youth, a Fredericton non-profit, received \$201,555 from Status of Women Canada in 2015 for a 36-month project to build a provincial strategy on trafficking of women and girls ([Status of Women Canada, 2015](#)). It produced a needs assessment, a strategy and a five-year plan in 2017 ([Partners for Youth](#)). The needs assessment identified the hidden nature of the crime, confusion between trafficking and sex work, barriers between vulnerable people and police, and a lack of programs and supports ([Partners for Youth](#)). A five-year plan from 2017 would have run its course by 2022. This book found no successor plan published by the Government of New Brunswick.

VICTIM IDENTIFICATION VS. CRIMINALIZATION

Canadian law shields people who sell their own sexual services. The Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act, in force since 6 December 2014, criminalizes buying sex and profiting from, procuring or advertising another person's services, while exempting sellers from liability for their own part ([Department of Justice Canada](#)). The Department of Justice said the aim was to encourage sellers to report violence without fear of being charged ([Department of Justice Canada, 2014](#)).

The harder problem is the victim who becomes an offender. The 19-year-old sentenced in Moncton in 2025 had herself been selling sex since her early teens after her mother died; her lawyer said the line between victim and offender blurred and she crossed it ([CBC News, 2025](#)). Statistics Canada notes that women accused of trafficking tend to be younger than men accused ([Statistics Canada, 2025](#)). Recruitment of victims into recruiting others is a known trafficking control strategy.

Courts must hold people accountable for the harm they cause while recognizing how they came to cause it. The judge in the Moncton case said he hoped the sentence would end a cycle of abuse.

Codiac's own public message points the right way. In announcing the April 2024 charges, a Codiac sergeant told victims that if they come forward, they will be listened to and believed ([CTV News Atlantic, 2024](#)).

CHAPTER 6

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND GRASSROOTS INTERVENTIONS

In Greater Moncton, the most consistent anti-trafficking infrastructure is not a government program but a handful of non-profits that have kept their doors open for decades. YWCA Moncton is listed in the national hotline's referral directory with a dedicated trafficking-survivor service.

THE FRONTLINE RESPONDERS

YWCA Moncton. The Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline's national referral directory lists YWCA Moncton for case management, counselling, job and life-skills training, mental health support, transitional housing, street outreach and harm reduction, and a trafficking survivor leadership and peer-mentorship service, delivered in English and French to citizens and foreign nationals alike ([Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline, National Referral Directory](#)). In 2021 Public Safety Canada funded a YWCA project to work with New Brunswick youth on trafficking-awareness materials and connect at-risk youth with adult mentors ([Public Safety Canada, March 2021](#)).

Crossroads for Women / Carrefour pour femmes. Operating since 1981, Crossroads describes itself as the largest domestic violence and sexual assault shelter in southeastern New Brunswick, offering emergency shelter, crisis intervention and one-on-one support around the clock ([Benevity charity profile](#)). Its 24-hour line is 506-853-0811, toll-free 1-844-853-0811 ([DomesticShelters.org](#)). Because so much trafficking runs through intimate relationships, shelters like Crossroads are often where victims first surface.

A shared drop-in for people in the sex trade. In 2019 the YWCA, the Salvus Clinic, Crossroads for Women, Ensemble and the YMCA's ReConnect program jointly opened a downtown drop-in for people in the sex trade, with \$50,000 from the City of Moncton. The YWCA outreach lead said she knew about 70 people working in the trade locally (CBC News, 2019). The space offers support whether people want to leave the trade or stay safer within it, and partners warned at opening that long-term funding was uncertain (CBC News, 2019). This model matters for trafficking because it creates a trusted, non-police point of contact where coercion can be disclosed.

Provincial victim services. New Brunswick Victim Services has a Moncton office at 520 Main Street, reachable at 506-857-2452 on weekdays (Anglophone East School District resource directory, 2023). Codiac Regional RCMP Victim Services assisted in the April 2024 case (RCMP, 2024).

Migrant worker advocates. For labour exploitation, the most active voices have been the Migrant Workers Alliance for Change and the Madhu Centre, which tracked the rise in vulnerable-worker permits in New Brunswick (NB Media Co-op, 2025). In 2019 the Multicultural Association of the Greater Moncton Area was refused a \$184,000 city grant to extend services to international students and temporary foreign workers (CBC News, 2019).

INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS

Statistics Canada lists Indigenous women and girls among the groups most at risk of trafficking (Statistics Canada, 2025). New Brunswick is home to 15 First Nations communities, six Wolastoqey and nine Mi'gmaq (Government of New Brunswick, *Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls*).

The province's response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, *Weaving Our Voices Together*, commits New Brunswick to partner with the Wabanaki Nations and Indigenous organizations to end violence (Government of New Brunswick). In December 2025, however, the provincial auditor general found the 2023 plan was no more than 10% complete, that

its committees had never met, and that the province did not know how many Indigenous women and girls in New Brunswick are missing or murdered. The department accepted all 11 recommendations ([Global News, December 2025](#)).

Indigenous-led supports exist. The New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council received federal funding in 2021 to extend the MMI-FIND crisis helpline (1-833-MMI-FIND) across the eastern provinces ([Women and Gender Equality Canada, 2021](#)). The province's Family Information Liaison Unit received federal Victims Fund support to provide trauma-informed services to families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls ([Government of Canada grants record](#)).

THE ROLE OF PUBLIC AWARENESS

Awareness works when it is specific. The 2025 Moncton conviction began with a taxi driver who noticed something wrong ([CBC News, 2025](#)). The 2024 Moncton rescue began with a call for a wellbeing check ([RCMP, 2024](#)). The 2026 case turned on a vehicle located at a hotel ([RCMP, 2026](#)). Drivers, hotel staff, landlords, neighbours and parents are the region's real sensor network.

Awareness also has to move past myths. An advocate told CBC in 2018 that people assume trafficking is a big-city problem when vulnerable young people in New Brunswick are being targeted, and that an informed public is the best defence ([CBC News, 2018](#)). The Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking's media guidance makes the same point about misconceptions ([CCEHT media briefing guide, 2025](#)).

The most useful public message is a phone number. The Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline (1-833-900-1010) operates around the clock in multiple languages, and calls reached a record of more than 5,100 in 2024 ([CCEHT, 2025](#)). Anonymous tips in New Brunswick go to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 ([RCMP, 2026](#)).

PART IV

CONCLUSION AND STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

CHAPTER 7

DISMANTLING THE NETWORK

Greater Moncton does not need to invent a response to trafficking. The pieces already exist: a federal strategy with ongoing money, specialist police units that have worked together on real cases, non-profits with decades of trust, and a national hotline. What is missing is a standing structure that connects them before the next taxi driver has to.

The recommendations below are this book's own, drawn from the evidence in Chapters 1 to 6. Each names the gap it answers.

THE FEDERAL FRAME

Canada's National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking launched on 4 September 2019 with \$57.22 million over five years and \$10.28 million a year ongoing ([Public Safety Canada, 2019](#)). It is organized around five pillars: empowerment, prevention, protection, prosecution and partnerships. In July 2024 the Minister of Public Safety committed to renewing it in response to a Commons committee report on preventing trafficking of women, girls and gender-diverse people ([Public Safety Canada](#)). New Brunswick and its municipalities can align their own measures to those five pillars and position local partners to compete for federal funding, as YWCA Moncton did in 2021.

POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE OVERHAULS: PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK

1. **Publish a renewed provincial strategy.** The 2017 community-led strategy and five-year plan have run their course ([Partners for Youth](#)). The province should adopt a government-owned successor with named lead departments, funding and annual public reporting. *Gap: Chapter 5.*

2. **Enact recruiter licensing.** Complete the Employment Standards Act amendments consulted on until June 2026, bringing New Brunswick level with Nova Scotia's 2013 regime ([Government of New Brunswick, 2026](#)). Pair licensing with unannounced inspections of worksites and employer-provided housing. *Gap: Chapter 4.*
3. **Mandate trafficking-prevention education in schools.** Follow Ontario's 2021 model of required staff training and student curriculum ([Morin, 2025](#)), delivered in both official languages. *Gap: Chapter 2.*
4. **Close the care-system gap.** Build trafficking screening and safety planning into care plans and transition-out-of-care supports, consistent with the Child, Youth and Seniors' Advocate's recommendations ([CTV News, 2022](#)). Treat every repeat runaway from care as a potential exploitation case. *Gap: Chapter 2.*
5. **Implement the MMIWG plan.** Act on the auditor general's 11 recommendations, starting with collecting data on missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in New Brunswick ([Global News, 2025](#)). *Gap: Chapter 6.*

POLICY MEASURES: MONCTON, DIEPPE AND RIVERVIEW

1. **Regulate short-term rentals for trafficking awareness.** Require operators to post trafficking signage and hotline numbers, as Winnipeg does ([City of Winnipeg](#)). *Gap: Chapter 3.*
2. **Make trafficking training a licensing condition for hotels, taxis and ride-hailing.** Free national training already exists in *Not in Our Hotel* ([Hotel Association of Canada](#)). The 2025 conviction began with a cab driver; every driver should know what that one knew. *Gap: Chapters 3 and 6.*
3. **Fund the front line for the long term.** Partners in the sex-trade drop-in warned at its opening that sustainable funding was uncertain ([CBC News, 2019](#)). Multi-year municipal core funding for outreach would cost little against the policing budget. *Gap: Chapter 6.*
4. **Ask for trafficking data in policing oversight.** Councils already require Codiac to show crime impact before further staffing ([CBC News, 2025](#)).

Trafficking, luring and exploitation indicators should be part of that reporting. *Gap: Chapter 5.*

A CALL FOR COLLABORATIVE INTELLIGENCE

The April 2024 Moncton investigation drew on at least ten police, forensic, justice and child-protection units ([RCMP, 2024](#)). That was an emergency assembly. The proposal here is to make it permanent.

A Southeast New Brunswick Anti-Trafficking Partnership would bring together, on a standing basis:

- **Enforcement:** Codiac Regional RCMP, the Southeast District RCMP, the New Brunswick RCMP Internet Child Exploitation Unit, and Crown prosecutors.
- **Protection:** Social Development child protection, New Brunswick Victim Services and Codiac Victim Services.
- **Community:** YWCA Moncton, Crossroads for Women, the Salvus Clinic, migrant-worker advocates and Indigenous organizations.
- **Labour:** provincial Employment Standards and federal foreign-worker compliance officers.
- **Financial:** a liaison with FINTRAC, which supported the 2024 Ottawa investigation ([Ottawa Police Service, 2024](#)).

Its work would follow four principles:

1. **Victim-led.** Mirror the Ottawa Police Service approach of respecting victims' wishes on whether to pursue charges while offering support either way ([Ottawa Police Service, 2024](#)).
2. **Corridor-aware.** Share information with Nova Scotia partners on the Halifax–Moncton corridor and with Ontario and Quebec units, since the region's cases routinely cross those borders ([CBC News, 2021](#)).
3. **Lawful open-source analysis.** Trained analysts can use publicly available information, such as online advertising patterns, to detect exploitation indicators and support investigations. This work must operate under police authority, with judicial authorization where the law requires it, and within

privacy law. Its purpose is to find victims and build evidence, not to expose or surveil private individuals.

4. **Measured.** Publish an annual public report with anonymized case counts, referrals, outcomes and services delivered, so the region can see whether the gap in Chapter 5's funnel is closing.

MEASURING SUCCESS

Success will not first look like fewer cases. Better detection will raise New Brunswick's police-reported numbers before it lowers them. The right early indicators are more hotline referrals from the region, more victims connected to services, more cases reaching charges, and a higher share ending in convictions. The long-term goal is simpler: that no young person brought to Moncton by an exploiter, and no worker trapped by a contract, has to wait for a stranger's lucky call.

WHERE TO GET HELP

Service	Contact	Notes
Emergency	911	Immediate danger
Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline	1-833-900-1010	24/7, confidential, multilingual; victims, families and witnesses (CCEHT)
Crossroads for Women, Moncton	506-853-0811 / 1-844-853-0811	24/7 crisis line and shelter, English and French (DomesticShelters.org)
YWCA Moncton	Via hotline referral directory	Survivor support, outreach, transitional housing (Hotline directory)
NB Victim Services, Moncton	506-857-2452	520 Main St., weekdays (ASD-East directory)
MMI-FIND Helpline	1-833-MMI-FIND	Indigenous people affected by MMIWG, eastern provinces (WAGE)
Crime Stoppers NB	1-800-222-8477	Anonymous tips; also crimenb.ca (RCMP)
Open Work Permit for Vulnerable Workers	IRCC	For migrant workers facing abuse on a closed permit (IRCC)

Further viewing. *Avenue Zero* (Hélène Choquette, 2009, 52 minutes), distributed by the National Film Board of Canada, documents trafficking in Canada through interviews with victims, witnesses and perpetrators ([NFB](#); [NFB Collection](#)).

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