

## **General Indicators of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation**

### **Appearance (physical/emotional)**

- Exhibits fear, anxiety, hyper-vigilance or signs of depression
- Signs of physical abuse and /or sexual abuse
- Signs of poor health or malnutrition
- Indicators of substance use or misuse
- Indicators of self-harm behaviours (i.e. cutting)
- Individual is dressed in inappropriate clothing for the context or weather
- Tattoos on the neck and/or lower back that the Individual is reluctant to explain – i.e. a man's name or initials; other types of branding – i.e. cutting or burning

### **Control or Isolation**

- Evidence of a controlling or dominating intimate relationships – i.e. accompanied by a partner who appears controlling; repeated phone calls from a partner, and/or excessive concern about displeasing a partner
- Not allowed to speak for herself– a partner or 3<sup>rd</sup> party speaks or translates for the individual
- No access to personal documents of identification (ID, Health Card, Birth Certificate)
- Inconsistencies regarding where she lives, how she came to be here or knowledge of her current location, may claim to be “just visiting”
- Lack of personal possessions or money
- Has no access to her earnings
- History of frequent movement (around the city, between cities, provincially, or internationally)
- Not allowed to leave her living or working situation unless monitored
- Lack of contact with family or friends

### **Sex work Involvement**

- Use of lingo or slang relating to the sex industry– i.e. referring to a boyfriend as “Daddy” or talking about “the game”, “the life”, “Johns” “tricks”, etc
- Indicates that she is involved in the sex industry and has a boyfriend/manager/“daddy”/pimp
- Engaged in sex work and has to meet a nightly quota or someone else ‘holds’ her money
- Exchanging sex for food, a place to stay, drugs, or other material items

**Created and ratified by the York Region Anti Human Trafficking Committee, 2012**