



Action Coalition on Human Trafficking

Edmonton, Alberta

April 20, 2015

For Immediate Release

ACT Alberta challenges myths of human trafficking

Last week, a Red Deer man and woman were charged with human trafficking following a lengthy investigation into the alleged abuse of eight temporary foreign workers at the Econo Lodge in Red Deer's Gasoline Alley.

Clearly, human trafficking – the act of forcing, coercing, or deceiving an individual into providing sex or labour for the personal gain of another – is an extreme form of exploitation that is happening right here in Alberta.

“Over the past few years we’ve seen this issue receive increased attention from government, law enforcement, and the public,” says Andrea Burkhart, Executive Director of ACT Alberta. “Unfortunately, the discourse on human trafficking tends to sensationalize and misrepresent its reality here in Alberta.”

“The pervasiveness of myths around human trafficking makes it harder both for victims to self-identify and for service providers to recognize this crime. This is a serious problem,” says Burkhart.

In recognition of National Victims of Crime Awareness Week, ACT Alberta is taking tangible steps to correct these misconceptions. On April 20, ACT Alberta will launch a myth-busting infographic outlining prevalent myths and discussing the realities here in Alberta.

The infographic will be formally launched in Edmonton at the Sexual Exploitation Week of Awareness Proclamation event:

Monday, April 20, 2015

12pm -1pm

CBC Centre Stage, City Centre Mall

Hard copies of the infographic can be picked up at the event and will be made available on social media and the ACT Alberta website (www.actalberta.org).

ACT Alberta works collaboratively with government agencies, law enforcement, and service providers to coordinate services for victims of human trafficking in our province. ACT Alberta manages a Victim Assistance Fund, provides training and education, researches and collects data on human trafficking, and builds capacity for community-based responses to human trafficking.

For more information about ACT Alberta, please contact Andrea Burkhardt, Executive Director, at (780) 919-5953, andreaburkhardt@actalberta.org, www.actalberta.org.