

In Need of Protection (Angel)	Recommendation Two	Reported Status: (not reported)
Report Sent: December 13, 2018	Public Body: Manitoba Families, Manitoba Education and Training, Manitoba Justice, Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living	

Recommendation Two:

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Education and Training, Manitoba Families, Manitoba Justice, and Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living engage with experts in childhood trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in order to develop a trauma prevention and response plan of action to (a) educate service providers and the public on ACEs, and (b) create appropriate, accessible immediate and long-term evidence informed interventions to address the trauma crisis that is ongoing in Manitoba.

DETAILS – These activities should include:

- The release of the Department of Families’ research entitled, *Collaboration and Best Practices to End Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation in Manitoba*;
- Ongoing data collection to inform clear performance measurements reflected in service purchase agreements (SPAs);
- An independent third party external evaluation of the outcomes and outputs of the Strategy to be published upon completion. This evaluation should utilize the Department of Families’ research and specifically include analysis of existing
 - specialized group and foster care placements for sexually exploited youth,
 - crisis stabilization support for sexually exploited youth,
 - sexual exploitation investigations,
 - regional teams funded by Tracia’s Trust,
 - provincial training on the sexual exploitation of children and youth,
 - the effectiveness of the Strategy for children and youth who are not in care; and
 - the effectiveness of the Strategy in Indigenous communities as per Indigenous methods of evaluation;
- A pilot of TERF’s Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Tool across the four Child and Family Services Authorities;
- The development of a continuum of care informed by youth consultation and collaboration with Indigenous partners (e.g. Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak and Southern Chiefs’ Organization) to create/reform service programs to address the co-occurring needs of sexually exploited youth (e.g. mental health, addictions, justice, and education); and
- An expansion of StreetReach (including youth who are not in care), the Winnipeg Outreach Network (WON), and services for youth who are sexually exploited in First Nations and remote and rural communities. The expansion of each of these services should be paired with continuous quality improvement tracking tools to monitor outcomes, track progress towards service delivery goals, and respond to the evolving needs of sexually exploited youth.

Response from the Manitoba Government on June 27, 2019:

Summary of activities completed since report was released

On January 30, 2019, the Families minister released a research report, *Collaboration and Best Practices to End Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking in Manitoba*.

(https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/traciastrust/pubs/tracias_trust_report_2019.pdf).

It provides key findings and opportunities to address sexual exploitation through the Tracia's Trust Strategy. The report contains evidence-based analysis, combined with feedback from focus groups. The report reflects quantitative analysis of 282 cases over a five-year period (2011-2016), as well as collaboration with 84 participants representing:

- front-line service providers,
- community members and Elders,
- law enforcement; government officials, and
- survivors and experiential voices with lived experience in the sex trades.

The key findings were shared with the Tracia's Trust Knowledge Keepers, seeking feedback and outlining a draft plan that will be reviewed by stakeholders to inform the next steps of the strategy.

The province is examining opportunities to augment the services of StreetReach and possible additional partnerships. On February 20, 2019, the province announced that the proceeds of crime fund will be used to bring members of the Winnipeg-based StreetReach team to Thompson every two months to work with RCMP and identify at-risk and vulnerable youth.

Transformation within child and family services provides an opportunity to collaborate and review and renew ongoing data collection processes, build program models that will be reflected in service purchase agreements, enhance training and redevelop specialized group care placements for sexually exploited youth.

This is also an opportunity to work with the current review of the youth justice system and its connections to the child welfare system. Details of this review were noted in the response to Recommendation #5 of the Circling Star report.

Analysis of Manitoba Government’s Response by the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth:

Activities Completed:

- Release of “*Collaboration and Best Practices to end Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking in Manitoba*”. The findings of the research report were shared with the Tracia’s Trust Knowledge Keepers to seek their feedback and outline a draft plan to be reviewed by stakeholders to inform the next steps of the strategy.

- The province is examining opportunities to augment the services of StreetReach. In February 2019, the province announced that the proceeds of crime fund will be used to bring Winnipeg StreetReach team members to Thompson every 2 months to work with RCMP and identify at-risk and vulnerable youth.

The response identifies the ongoing transformation within CFS and the review of the Justice system’s connection to CFS as opportunities to review data collection processes, enhance training, and redevelop specialized placements for sexually exploited youth.

Level of Compliance

This response indicates a commitment to respond to the intent of the recommendation and its details.

Analysis of Response

- As this response progresses, helpful information would include:
 - A timeline for completion of the draft plan for the updating of Tracia’s Trust.
 - Details surrounding the expansion of StreetReach to Thompson such as when the expansion occurred, whether the expansion is permanent, could StreetReach be expanded further, and data related to the work of StreetReach in Thompson.
 - Further information on the augmentation of StreetReach in Winnipeg.
 - Details of the CFS and Justice System review and its applicability to this recommendation.

- To be addressed in the short term*:
 - Status of implementation
 - Information indicating a timeline for implementation

*On September 30, 2019, the Manitoba Advocate sent a letter to the members of the government’s MACY-RAP committee and working group requesting additional information regarding the government’s progress on recommendations made by the Advocate. The Advocate communicated to the government representatives short-term questions for information that could be provided quickly. Additionally, the Advocate sent long-term questions for the government to address in future progress reports. The questions are designed to seek clarification on activities, seek evidence or documentation to support the activities, or to determine how the government’s responses are meeting the intent of the recommendations made by the Advocate. All of this information will be used by the Advocate to determine the levels of compliance with implementation, in accordance with s.11(1)(d), s.30(2)(d), and s.30(4), of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*.

