

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING/LE TRAFIC SEXUEL DES FEMMES

**Economic Club of Canada/Joy Smith Foundation**

**Opening Remarks by moderator David Kilgour, JD.**

**Westin Hotel, Ottawa**

**26 March 2014**

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Congratulations to the Economic Club of Canada for today going beyond familiar issues.

Merci a Joy Smith de Winnipeg, Casandra Diamond de Toronto et Dominic Monchamp de Montreal d'être venus. Aussi pour votre travail contre le trafic sexuel des femmes.

The women/youth of our country especially—and the rest of us--owe you much for what you are each doing against the scourge of human trafficking.

Youth are being bought and sold across Canada. In Ottawa, for example, the 'sex industry' today represents approximately \$26 million a year of buyers paying for sex (with cash only) and where the average age of trafficked persons entering the field is believed to be about 13. This is outrageous; Canadians should understand the fastest growing crime in our country.

A brief word about the panelists:

**Joy Smith**, *Member of Parliament for Kildonan-St. Paul and Founder of the Joy Smith Foundation.*



Ms. Smith was inspired by her son's police work in an integrated child exploitation unit, and she is now recognized as leading the national campaign against contemporary sex slavery. Her 2007 motion, calling on this country to adopt a strategy to combat human trafficking worldwide, was unanimously adopted by the House of Commons. Her next initiative, adopted in 2010 by Parliament, created a new criminal offence of child trafficking. In 2012, her Bill C-310 was enacted, extending extraterritorial effect upon Canadians to our human trafficking laws.

Only her charitable foundation in Canada today rescues victims of human trafficking. It also provides information and funds to front-line organizations that rescue/rehabilitate victims. Since 2012, funds have been dispersed in most provinces, helping numerous victims. Smith continues to work with victims of sexual exploitation and forced labour, raising awareness and providing tangible support to organizations dedicated to ending human trafficking.

**Casandra Diamond**, *Human Trafficking Case Manager, Women's Support Network (W.S.N.), York Region*



Ms. Diamond faces human trafficking at the street level as a case manager for the W.S.N. She is also a volunteer for various agencies in the G.T.A., which oppose human trafficking and prostitution. She has a deep knowledge of the needs of women who are able to escape or are rescued, and is familiar with the grooming/ recruiting tactics of organized crime and pimps. She works with a number of groups with realistic programs to meet the needs of trafficked/exploited women. As a volunteer, she supports women and their families to move to brighter futures for survivors of prostitution. To get their lives back survivors, as she says, need help and jobs.

**Dominic Monchamp**, *Detective Sergeant, Multidisciplinary investigation section and youth co-ordination, Montreal Police Department Vice Division*



Detective Monchamp has worked in this branch of police work most of 20 years, specializing in human trafficking/sexual exploitation. His experience includes overseeing undercover operations. Declared an expert witness by the courts in 2006, he has been involved in more than 1800 human trafficking files and has done over 600 victim interviews.

Monchamp lectures and gives conferences at regional, provincial and national levels. He is an active member of Action Committee against Human Trafficking – Domestic and International) (2011-2014), the International office for children's rights (2006, 2012-2013), and the Temple committee against human Trafficking (2008-2014).

### **Panelist Presentations**

Time is tight; our panelists have all agreed to respect a 7-minute limit for each in order to maximize time for questions and comments. When they finish, I'm asked to put a few questions to them before you the audience get at them. We must end at 1.30 pm.

### **New Legislation Required**

In January this year, Ottawa residents learned that a local teenage girl had been convicted of beating, drugging and threatening three high school girls to force them into prostitution. In February, an anti- human trafficking group (PACT), reported that at least 150 women and girls in the capital region, all of whom were Canadian citizens, and some as young as 12, had been recruited by force into prostitution over the past six

years. On CBC Radio 'Ottawa Morning' yesterday, listeners listened with anguish to 'Sarah', who was kidnapped by a criminal gang pimp and spent four years as his prostitute/slave. It brought him, she estimates, about \$1 million dollars, while she went through sheer hell. She nonetheless blames the 'johns' as much as the pimp.

Have we learned nothing about human beings since the laws against vagrancy and bawdy houses were enacted by Parliament in 1882? Further measures in 1972 (solicitation) and 1985 (communications) were also aimed at preventing prostitution from becoming a nuisance to the general public--'polite society' in effect. Do we not believe in the 21<sup>st</sup> century that women and youths of both sexes have equal rights?

Merci.