



# Abbotsford Police Department

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*Bob Rich*  
Chief Constable

*"Protecting with Pride"*

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### APD NEWS RELEASE:

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RELEASE # 1

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### BC Association of Chiefs calls for National Strategy for Human Trafficking

**Abbotsford – January 20, 2011.**

On December 2, 2010 the British Columbia Association of Chiefs of Police (BCACP) sent a letter to The Honourable Robert Douglas Nicholson – Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and The Honourable Vic Toews – Minister of Public Safety urging that a National Strategy for Human Trafficking be established. The BCACP recognizes the work initiated by the Federal Government to date and hopes that a National Strategy will bring a comprehensive approach to the issue that has been discussed since Canada signed the United Nations Palermo Protocol in 2000. A specific hope for the National Strategy is that it includes funded strategic initiatives to allow for both the successful rescue of victims and the effective prosecution of traffickers.

#### **The BCACP passed the following resolution on November 17, 2010:**

**Whereas**, human trafficking is not only a significant problem world-wide, it is now known to be a substantial and growing problem within Canada, involving extensive and highly profitable systems of human trafficking networks across the country;

**And Whereas**, the current laws in Canada need to be updated and widened in scope to rescue trafficked persons and prosecute human traffickers;

**And Whereas**, programs are needed to assist both foreign and domestic victims attempting to escape traffickers;

**And Whereas**, sex trafficking is one of the most common forms of trafficking in Canada and that many victims of this crime need specific assistance and counseling to break free from their captors:

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*To make Abbotsford the safest city in B.C.*

Therefore, the BCACP respectfully requests that the Federal Government develop a National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking containing the following key components:

1. Prosecution of Traffickers: Widen the scope and definition of the trafficking laws to allow for effective and successful investigation and prosecution of human traffickers and consider minimum sentences for convicted human traffickers. Encourage and fund the development of integrated law enforcement Human Trafficking Task Forces to target the most prolific and violent criminal organizations and networks.
2. Protection of Victims: Ensure victims of human trafficking can access needed governmental and non-governmental services wherever they are identified in Canada.
3. Preventing the Crime: Prevention efforts, working with the provinces, Aboriginal leaders, non-government agencies and survivors, to provide outreach and education to ensure that the most vulnerable, including at-risk Aboriginal youth and those in child protection, are resistant to tactics of traffickers; ensure temporary foreign workers who are victims benefit from "whistleblower" protection with alternative employment and recovery of unpaid wages.
4. Focus on the Demand: Stiffen penalties for sex consumers who create the demand for trafficking victims. Revise the criminal law so that trafficked persons are treated as victims. Provide support programs to victims to ensure they are freed and not re-victimised. Vigorously enforce Canada's extraterritorial child sex crime offences and prevent convicted child sex offenders from freely traveling abroad.

The BCACP is committed to this important issue and is prepared to provide whatever assistance is necessary to move it forward.

**The British Columbia Association of Chiefs of Police representative for the issue of Human Trafficking is Abbotsford Chief Constable Bob Rich.**

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