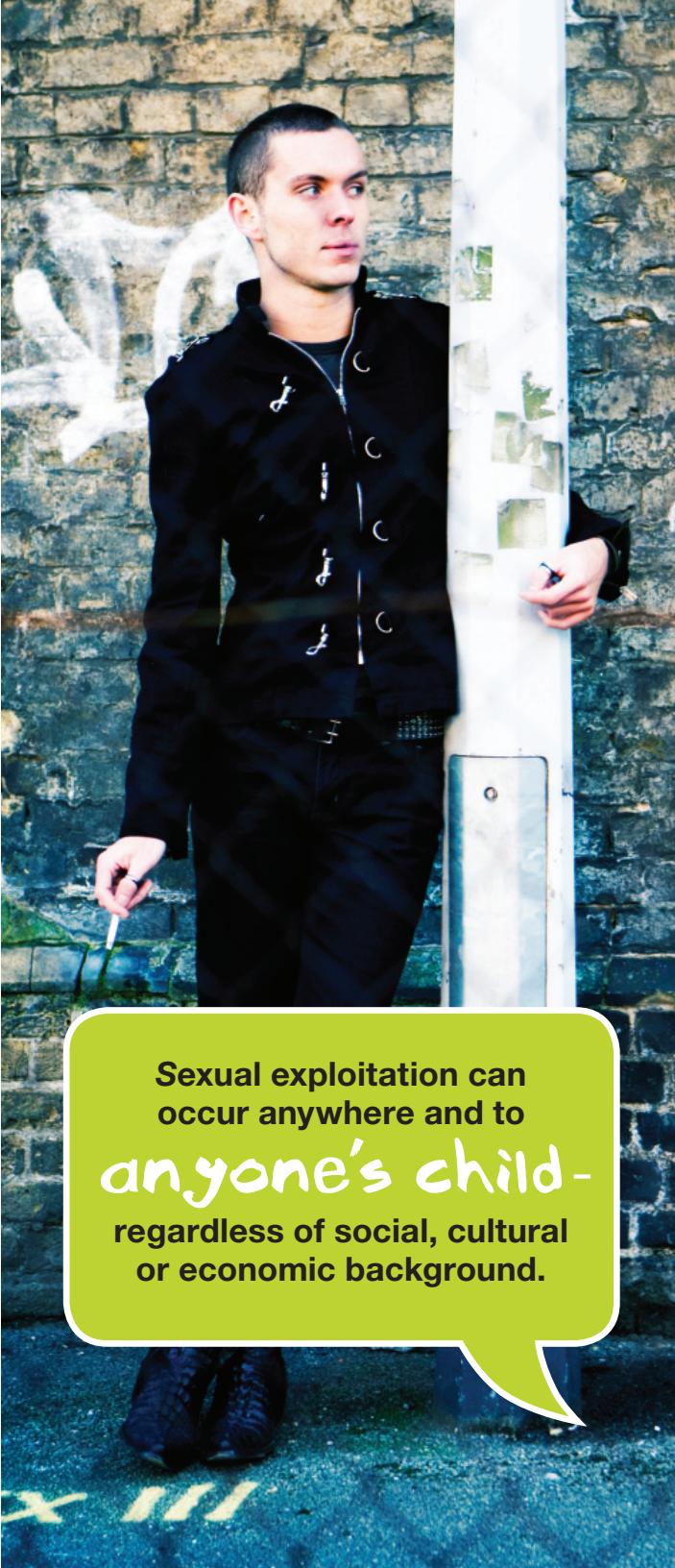




sexual
EXPLOITATION

WHAT **every**
parent
NEEDS TO KNOW



**Sexual exploitation can
occur anywhere and to**

anyone's child-

**regardless of social, cultural
or economic background.**



tips



Always
attempt
to know who your
child's friends are.

Education and healthy relationships are the best ways to protect your child against sexual exploitation. Have open conversations with your child about healthy relationships and sexuality, drugs, and internet safety and luring. You can never know too much when it comes to protecting your child. If you see your child:

- Withdrawing from their regular friends and family
- Being secretive about who they see and where they have been
- Being unusually protective about a new relationship or friend when you ask about them
- Coming home much later than expected for unexplained reasons
- Hanging around older people
- Wearing clothing or jewelry or having a smart phone that they could not possibly afford
- Carrying excess amounts of condoms or sexual aids
- Being excessively secretive or reactive about their browser history, frequented websites or contacts on their cell phone

Call the Child Abuse Hotline at **1-800-387-KIDS (5437)** and ask to speak to someone about your concerns.

Sexually exploited youth come from a variety of backgrounds. Some youth trade sex for survival because they are trying to meet their basic needs of shelter and food. Some youth fall prey to exploiters while trying to leave their problems at home, school or community. Exploiters will offer drugs, alcohol, clothes, fast money or emotional affection to convince youth to trade sex. Some youth who are questioning their sexual identity may be kicked out of their homes and become disproportionately vulnerable to physical, sexual or emotional abuse while trading sex.



sexual
exploiters

Sexual exploiters are people who seek out and bring children and youth into sexual exploitation and human trafficking. If someone arranges hotels, places ads and drives children or youth for the purposes of exchanging sex for money or goods then that person is a sexual exploiter. Exploiters can be anyone: rich or poor, male or female, young or old. They can pose as a girlfriend or boyfriend, and are manipulative.

Once a youth is forced to trade sex for goods or money it becomes difficult for them to leave the situation. They may feel isolated from friends, family, and community. Physical violence and threats of harm may keep them from leaving.

facts

Exploiters tend to seek out their victims through

**online
luring
or your
boyfriend/
girlfriend**



Even a peer can try to recruit and exploit others.

Whether you live in a big city or in a small town, chances are there are young people being sexually exploited in ***your community.***

You might not see it

because it happens at parties, on the internet, in social media, apps and chat sites which are being used as tools in sexually exploiting children and youth.

No child
chooses a life of
sexual exploitation



the law

The Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act (PSECA) recognizes that children involved in sexual exploitation are **victims** of sexual abuse who need help and protection.

If you suspect **your child** may be at risk of being sexually exploited, trust your instinct and seek help. Call the Child Abuse Hotline at **1-800-387-KIDS (5437)** or call your local police department.

Be aware of exploiters, they take advantage of a child or youth's innocence and live off the profits.

The PSECA law allows police and Children's Services caseworkers to remove sexually exploited children from dangerous situations to ensure their safety and well-being.

Under the PSECA legislation, young people involved in sexual exploitation can access a variety of services including:

- Medical assistance
- Drug and alcohol counselling
- Psychological services
- Educational programming
- Placement resources and
- Life skills supports

Over 75% of people working in the Canadian sex trade began working as a child.
*"Strolling Away",
Dr. Susan McIntyre, PhD*

take action

Together we can stop the abuse.

Programs and services are available across Alberta to help children end their involvement in sexual exploitation.

In addition, prevention and public awareness activities are carried out to reduce the incidences of children and youth being sexually exploited.

for
help

contact us

If you have any suspicion that your child or a child you know is being sexually exploited, call the Child Abuse Hotline at **1-800-387-KIDS (5437)** or call your local police department.

If a child or youth is being sexually exploited, their family and caregivers do not require child intervention status to receive services.

For more information on Alberta's commitment to the protection of sexually exploited children or programs and services in your area, visit the Children's Services' website **ChildrensServices.alberta.ca** and click on Child Sexual Exploitation.