

2021 Cutting Edge of Mission Award Recipient

The Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking

Address by Julia Drydyk, Executive Director

June 7, 2021

Honorable Commissioners to the 2021 General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, distinguished members of The Cutting Edge of Mission Award Committee, and guests –

My name is Julia Drydyk, the Executive Director of the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking and it is my honour to be here with you today.

On behalf of our board, staff, and partners, we are sincerely grateful for your recognition of what we have achieved to tackle human trafficking in Canada. We graciously accept The Cutting Edge of Mission Award.

When the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking was founded in 2016, our ultimate goal was and continues to be, to defeat human trafficking and to put an end to this crime in this country. We exist to create a national strategy for change.

Human Trafficking is a sophisticated, organized crime that demands sophisticated, coordinated and integrated solutions.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada is an invaluable partner to ending human trafficking in Canada and we thank you for your unwavering commitment and support to tackle modern slavery in all of its forms.

With you by our side, we will continue to support victims and survivors affected by human trafficking:

- **by increasing awareness of human trafficking in Canada:** Only when every Canadian is armed with the knowledge of how widespread and manipulative this crime is, can we truly act together to interrupt its cycle.
- **by operating the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline:** Available 24/7, 365 days a year our highly trained hotline response advocates provide immediate trauma-informed support to victims and survivors *whenever* and *wherever* they need us.
- **by conducting leading research** to better our understanding of how this heinous crime occurs and how we can support and empower the vulnerable communities of this crime.
- **by advocating for long-term, sustainable change that effectively tackles the root causes of human trafficking.**

We must make sure our collective reach, support, education, and influence are maximized to the fullest in order to provide outcomes that benefit more Canadian women and girls now and keep the most vulnerable in our community, *safe*, for generations to come.

The reality is this crisis is much larger than most Canadians realize. Human trafficking in Canada is occurring at shocking levels.

You've seen the most recent statistics:

- Police reported incidents increased by 44% in 2019, *from just one year earlier*
- 95% of victims and survivors are women and girls, *as young as twelve years old*
- 55% of all perpetrators mask themselves *as boyfriends*

Human trafficking is a Canadian, non-partisan – *crisis*.

Together, we have achieved impactful change already.

Most recently, through the release of our Human Trafficking Corridors in Canada Report, we ignited the interest of Canadians from coast-to-coast-to-coast, *conveying how widespread and pervasive human trafficking really is in Canada*.

Together, we have already made great strides.

We are making a meaningful difference in the lives of victims and survivors of human trafficking through the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline, our National Referral Directory, our first-of-its-kind research and our education and advocacy programs.

Together, we will see an end to this crime.

This prestigious award and accompanying financial assistance will certainly support us as we serve victims and survivors of human trafficking, *whenever* and *wherever* they need us most.

Thank you and we look forward to building our partnership to realize our ultimate goal to end human trafficking in Canada together.