

## **Policy Statement**

It is the policy of the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board (KPDSB) to support a system for fostering and maintaining positive learning environments and safe schools. It is the policy of KPDSB to establish, review, and follow the KPDSB Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol for the prevention, intervention, and response to suspected sex trafficking occurrences. The KPDSB Protocol has clearly articulated roles, responsibilities, and accountability measures, and ensures the following core and essential elements:

- Statement of principles;
- Strategies to raise awareness and prevent sex trafficking;
- Response to procedures; and
- Training for KPDSB employees.

## **Rationale**

The KPDSB Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol supports the implementation of The Ministry of Education's Policy/Program Memorandum 166 Keeping Students Safe: Policy Framework for School Board Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocols (PPM166). This Protocol will support coordinated action by community partners to prevent, identify, and recognize sex trafficking, and develop responses to facilitate early and appropriate intervention for both victims of sex trafficking and students involved in trafficking others. Due to almost daily contact with students, teachers and other education staff are well placed to educate on prevention and promote healthy relationships, notice troubling changes in behaviour, and connect with students as caring adults. By educating staff to recognize the signs of sex trafficking, they will be better equipped to identify the cues and safely intervene if they suspect a student is being trafficked or involved in trafficking.

## **Definition**

“Sex Trafficking” is a form of sexual exploitation and is a crime under the Criminal Code of Canada. It can include recruiting, harbouring, transporting, obtaining, and/or providing a person for the purpose of sex. It involves the use of force, physical or psychological coercion or deception. Most individuals who are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation are women and girls, but all people may be targeted.

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