

Part 1 - Awareness Competencies:

- The trainee will gain knowledge and understanding of the history of the sex trade and the impacts of colonization.
- The trainee will gain knowledge and understanding on current legislation regarding the sex trade/trafficking
- The trainee will gain awareness of their own perspective(s) and biases concerning their own knowledge and understanding of the concept of sexual exploitation;
- The trainee will be able to change their language to reflect our changing perspective on children/youth affected by sexual exploitation;
- The trainee will gain awareness, knowledge and understanding of the culture of the sex trade as a pre-requisite to understanding how to intervene with children/youth/adults.
- The trainee will gain awareness and knowledge of the characteristics and vulnerability factors of individuals who have been exploited;
- The trainee will gain awareness, knowledge and understanding of the interconnectedness of the sex trade with other social issues such as violence, addictions and health related issues;
- The trainee will gain awareness, knowledge and understanding of how children and youth are affected by sexual exploitation, including why they get involved in the sex trade, systemic factors associated with involvement and how the sex trade affects their ongoing development;
- The trainee will gain awareness, knowledge and understanding of the process of sexual exploitation as a pre-requisite to understanding how to intervene effectively with children/youth involved in the sex trade;
- The trainee will gain awareness and knowledge of the people who sexually exploit children, youth and adults including the role of johns, pimps/traffickers and gangs in the sexual exploitation process.
- The trainee will gain awareness and knowledge of the range of services and resources designed to intervene to protect and support children and youth who have been affected by sexual exploitation; and
- The trainee will develop the awareness, knowledge and understanding of the importance of using the expertise of experiential people to address the issues associated with sexual exploitation of children and youth

Part 2 -Skill Application Competencies¹:

- The trainee will develop the knowledge of key theoretical approaches (Indigenous perspectives, systems theory, strengths focused, empowerment perspective, cultural approaches) in intervening with children/youth affected by sexual exploitation and will develop the skills to apply trans theoretical interventions (Stages of Change Model) where necessary;
- The trainee will understand how to adapt his/her interventions to match where the child/youth is at in the sexual exploitation process;
- The trainee will develop the knowledge and skills to intervene with children and youth affected by sexual exploitation at the micro (child), meso (families and groups), and macro (community, political, educational, social) level;
- The trainee will develop the knowledge and understanding of how to intervene to protect children at risk of being exploited by the sex trade;
- The trainee will develop the knowledge and understanding of how to intervene build a meaningful and effective relationship with a child/youth as an intervention strategy;
- The trainee will develop the knowledge and understanding of why and how to employ harm reduction strategies and to recognize the turning points for children/youth entrenched in the sex trade;
- The trainee will develop the knowledge and understanding of the barriers associated with exiting the sex trade and develop strategies to assist children and youth do so;
- The trainee will develop the knowledge and understanding of how to adapt current agency treatment interventions to adapt to the unique needs of children/youth affected by the sex trade;
- The trainee will gain awareness and knowledge of the range of services and resources designed to intervene to protect and support children and youth who have been affected by sexual exploitation; and
- The trainee will develop the awareness, knowledge and understanding of the importance of using the expertise of experiential people to address the issues associated with sexual exploitation of children and youth.
- The trainee is aware of his/her own emotional responses to sexual exploitation and those involved in the sex trade and understands the potential for these responses to interfere with their work with children/youth involved in the sex trade; and
- The trainee will be able to identify relevant self-care strategies to be able to continue to work with children and youth affected by sexual exploitation.

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