



Ontario Provincial Police
Police provinciale de l'Ontario

News Release/ Communiqué

FROM/DE: East Algoma Detachment

DATE: October 12, 2022

LEONA SKYE GRANDMOND SPEAKS OUT ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND TELLS HER STORY

(BLIND RIVER, ON)- Human Trafficking is a growing and concerning crime in Canada and we are seeing it here in our local communities. Human Trafficking is the second largest crime in Canada, bringing in \$150 billion per year. In Canada, 80% of victims are young girls and women born and raised in Canada. But there is hope, through public presentations at the community level, bringing awareness to our vulnerable persons.

The East Algoma Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and Victim Services of Algoma are teaming up to bring a survivor of this horrific lifestyle to Blind River, Elliot Lake and Thessalon October 18, 19, and 20, 2022. The goal is to have Leona deliver numerous presentations: Grades 7-8's because the average recruitment age is 12-14 years old, Secondary School students to make them aware of the process of recruitment, and to our Indigenous Communities, as they are extremely vulnerable to being victimized by this crime.

"We are excited to partner with Victim Services of Algoma to bring Ms. Skye-Grandmond to the East Algoma area. Human Trafficking is widely misunderstood by the public and surrounded by many myths. By educating our youth and raising public awareness, we hope to dispel myths about what Human Trafficking really is and empower vulnerable people to avoid victimization. I'd like to thank Ms. Skye-Grandmond for sharing her story with our communities". – Inspector Tyler Sturgeon, Commander, East Algoma Detachment

The keynote speaker is Leona Skye Grandmond, a survivor of Human Trafficking. She will help discern and dispel the myths and misinformation around Human Trafficking. Two presentations for the public will take place at 7:00 p.m., on October 18, 2022, at Ecole Secondaire Catholique Jeunesse-Nord Auditorium, 117 Youngfox Road in the Town of Blind River and at 7:00 p.m., October 19, 2022, at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 182, 18 Algoma Street in the Town of Thessalon.

For more information, please contact Provincial Constable Bev Gauthier at 705-356-2244 extension 7155 or email: beverley.gauthier@opp.ca

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Contact: Provincial Constable Bev Gauthier
Community Safety Officer/Media Officer
Phone: (705) 356-2244 Ext. 7155
Email: beverley.gauthier@opp.ca



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