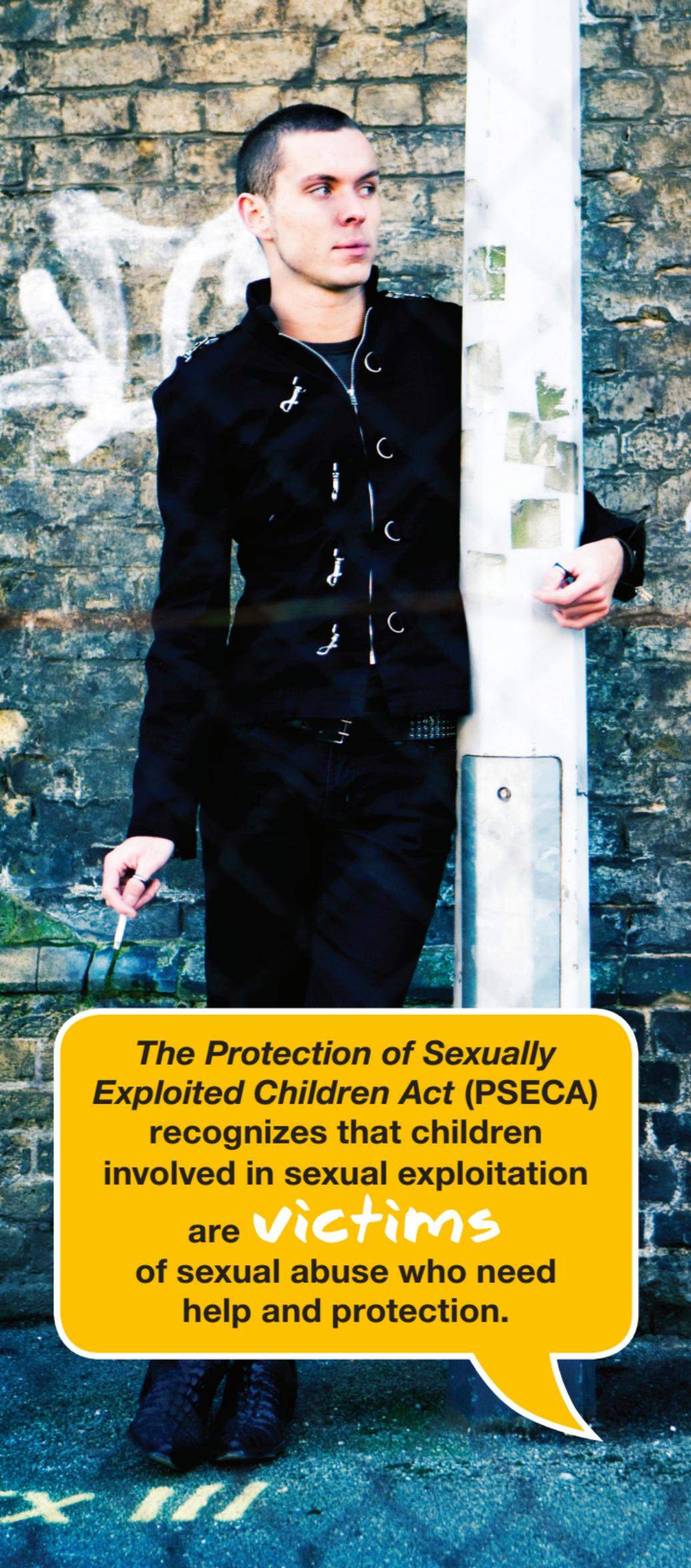




Protection

OF SEXUALLY EXPLOITED
CHILDREN

LEARN THE *facts*
ABOUT SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION



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.

facts

Child sexual exploitation is sexual abuse and **is a crime.**

IN 2015-16
The average
age of a child
involved with
PSECA was

**16.2
years
old**

Most people don't realize that many of the children and youth involved with PSECA are under the age of 18. The youngest child during this period was 12 years old.

In 2015-16, 4% of the youth helped were male. Male and transgender rates are often highly underreported.

Some youth involved with PSECA struggle with their gender identity or sexual orientation. LGBTQ youth experience a higher incidence of being kicked out of the parental home and needing to provide basic needs for themselves.



Sexual exploitation can occur anywhere and to **anyone's child** - regardless of social, cultural or economic background.

overview

Under the PSECA Act, there are a variety of voluntary community support services available to assist a child or youth end their involvement in sexual exploitation.

- 16 and 17-year-old youths, who may not be living at home or have guardian support can access all available support services without parental or guardian permission.
- Youth who have an agreement under PSECA at age 18 can continue to receive support services up to age 24.

Under PSECA, a sexual exploited child can be placed in protective safe-house for up to five days.

- During this placement, the child is assessed for child-protection needs, medical concerns, drug and alcohol use, family support and their level of risk related to their involvement in sexual exploitation.

If the assessment determines that the child continues to need protection, a caseworker can apply to Family Court for up to two additional 21-day periods of confinement.

- During the placement period, the child will be offered a variety of services including drug and alcohol counselling, medical supports, counselling or psychological services, educational programming, cultural supports and life skills support.
- These services are tailored to meet the individual needs of each child in a holistic manner.



Over 75% of people working in the Canadian sex trade, began working as a child.

*"Strolling Away",
Dr. Susan McIntyre, PhD*

The additional time spent in the protective safe house allows staff to **work with** the child or youth, help them to break the cycle of abuse and begin the recovery in a **safe** and secure environment.

rights protection

As soon as a child involved in prostitution is placed in a protective safe house, the child is informed in writing about:

- Why he or she was removed from the risk situation
- The duration of the placement
- Court dates
- Their right to legal representation

The child is also given an opportunity to contact a lawyer and told he or she may request a court review of the confinement.

THE ACT

The PSECA provides for a variety of voluntary community support services to assist children and youth in ending their involvement in sexual exploitation.

This PSECA law allows police and Children's Services caseworkers to apprehend sexually exploited children, with or without a court order, to ensure their safety and well-being. The legislation is based on the following principles:

*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.*

- Children involved in prostitution are victims of child sexual abuse.
- Children have a right to physical and emotional safety, security and well-being.
- Children have a right to be safe from sexual abuse and protected from sexual exploitation.
- If a child or youth is involved in prostitution, their family and caregivers do not require child intervention status to receive services.

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 know a child or youth, who is being sexually exploited, call the Child Abuse Hotline at **1-800-387-KIDS (5437)** or call your local police department.

For more information on programs and services, visit the Children's Services' website **ChildrensServices.alberta.ca** and click on Child Sexual Exploitation.