



## The Centre

Canadian Centre to  
End Human Trafficking.

### **Quick Facts on Labour Trafficking in Canada**

Labour trafficking is exploiting someone's labour for someone else's individual profit. While anyone can be a victim of labour trafficking, it largely impacts lower-wage migrant workers in the construction, manufacturing and agricultural sectors. A growing number of migrant workers are experiencing false promises, intimidation and abuse from their employers. Stopping this exploitation begins with education and awareness.

### **Migrant Workers and Labour Trafficking**

- The term 'migrant workers' refers to people who are neither citizens nor permanent residents of Canada but who have relocated to Canada to work
- 787,225 people were permitted into Canada with temporary work permits in 2022
  - Though lower-wage migrant workers can be employed anywhere in Canada, the majority of them are located in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick
  - Many lower wage workers arrive through the federal Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP), which includes the Agricultural Stream and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP)
- Annually, the agricultural sector employs the most temporary foreign workers
- Migrant workers are vulnerable to labour trafficking due to their precarious immigration status, isolation, and language barriers
- Canada's economy and food security depend on migrant workers
- Migrant Workers have rights in Canada [[English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#)]
  - The right to work in a safe environment with necessary safety equipment and training provided by employers.
  - The right to be free from discrimination, violence, and harassment in the workplace.
  - The right to file complaints and seek help if they feel their rights have been violated without fear of retaliation or deportation.
- Gaps in government policy, discrimination by employers, and unsafe working conditions put migrant workers at risk of being exploited

### **Canadians and Labour Trafficking: [Results from a recent survey conducted by The Centre](#)**

- More than half of Canadians (55%) either don't believe or don't know that labour trafficking is a major issue in Canada
- 43% of Canadians believe labour trafficking requires illegally smuggling workers across borders. Another 25% don't know if that's the case. In reality, the majority of labour trafficking victims come to Canada through legitimate pathways
- 93% of Canadians support the fair treatment of migrant workers, but 85% don't know how to make a difference
- 85% of Canadians believe that Canada is the land of opportunity



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### The Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-833-900-1010

- Is anonymous and confidential
- Operates 24 hours per day, 365 days a year
- Can be accessed via phone, chat, web form, and email
- Offers services in more than 200 languages
- Is independent of the police and the government
- Uses a person-centred and trauma-informed approach to connect human trafficking victims and survivors with emergency, transitional, and long-term supports and services

### Everyone Can Help End Labour Trafficking

- At The Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking, we recommend taking three steps to turn the tide of this issue:
  - **Educate yourself**
    - Labour traffickers coerce people to work against their will by using violence, threats, lies and false promises
  - **Know the signs**
    - Call the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline if you or others you know:
      - Experience physical abuse, violence, threats or lack of food access
      - Have payments reduced or held back by an employer or recruiter
      - Have passports or legal documents withheld
      - Are denied medical services by an employer
  - **Speak up and call the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-833-900-1010**
    - Victims of labour trafficking may be unaware of their rights or intentionally misinformed so they don't seek help. If you feel something isn't right, encourage those at risk to call the Hotline