

## **WRCPC Agenda**

May 10, 2019

9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (8:30 a.m. Networking)

Public Health and Community Services Building

99 Regina Street, South

Room #508

Chair: Shayne Turner

Minutes: Mary Anna Allen

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
4. Approval of the April 12, 2019 Minutes – 5 min (attached)
  - 4.1 Business Arising
5. Approval of the Smart Update (Consent Agenda) – 10 min (attached)
6. Final Evaluation of the Smart on Crime Plan 2014-2018: CCRLA – 45 min
7. Health Tables Presentation – Cathy Harrington and Rosslyn Bentley – 45 min
8. The Rise and Fall of Strategic Planning: Review by Andrew Jackson and Christiane Sadeler – 10 min
9. Well-being Waterloo Region Updates – 20 min
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment
12. Next Meeting: June 7, 2019 (Please note this is, as approved, a new meeting date to accommodate a potential meeting with the connectors hub of WWR)

## WRPCPC Minutes

April 12, 2019

Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum

10 Huron Rd., Kitchener

Classroom A

**Present:** Andrew Jackson, Barry Cull, Bill Wilson, Cathy Harrington Chris Cowie, Courtney Didier, Felix Munger, Irene O'Toole, Janice Ouellette, Jennifer Hutton, Joe-Ann McComb, John Shewchuk, Jonathan English, Kathryn McGarry, Kathy Payette, Kelly Anthony, Laurie Strome, Liz Vitek, Mark Pancer, Patricia Moore, Peter Ringrose, Richard Eibach, Rosslyn Bentley, Sarah Shafiq, Sharon Ward-Zeller, Shayne Turner, Shirley Hilton, Tom Galloway, Trisha Robinson

**Regrets:** Angela Vanderheyden, Barry McClinchey, Carmen Abel, David Jaeger, Doug McKlusky, Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders, Hsiu-Li Wang, James Bond, Karen Spencer, Mark Crowell, Shawn Johnston

**Staff:** Christiane Sadeler, David Siladi, Julie Thompson, Mary Anna Allen, Michael Parkinson

**Student(s)** Alissa Petovello

**Guests:** Staff from the City of Brampton, Fauzia Mazhar, members of the Kitchener Waterloo Coalition of Muslim Women and more generally the Muslim community, Liam (student from UW)

### 1. **Welcome:**

WRPCPC members, staff and guests were welcomed.

### 2. **Approval of Agenda:**

Moved by Sharon Ward-Zeller

Seconded by Jonathan English

Carried

### 3. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest:**

None

#### **4. Approval of the March 8, 2019 Minutes:**

Moved by Courtney Didier

Seconded by Kathryn McGarry

Carried

**4.1 Business Arising: None**

#### **5. Facilitating Committee Report:**

Chris Cowie reminded members of WRCPC on behalf of FC to please review the job list most frequently attached to the consent agenda. This is staff's attempt to solicit support for time limited actions that need resources.

#### **6. Islamophobia Report:**

Sarah Shafiq presented an overview of the report about Islamophobia in our community. A copy of the PowerPoint will be made available. The report was a summary of consultation comments from the November 2018 forum which was well attended. It is meant to spark dialogues and actions in our community about Islamophobia akin to the Breaking the Silence report (about violence towards the LGBTQ+ community). Sarah requested that WRCPC adopt the report so it can be shared with the wider community as a partnership document.

A motion was made: That the WRCPC adopt the Islamophobia in Waterloo Region Report on the Community Consultation about Islamophobia for the Coalition of Muslim Women and the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council as prepared by Dr. Sarah Shafiq (PHD).

Moved by Trisha Robinson

Seconded by Laurie Strome

Carried

#### **7. Andrew Taylor's Summary of the First Consultation:**

At the last meeting of the WRCPC on March 8, 2019, Andrew Taylor from Newberry and Taylor Consulting, facilitated a strategic planning discussion with Council. At that time, Andrew suggested that a traditional strategic planning model might not be the best option for the WRCPC in light of its current situation and within the changing broader landscape. He also suggested that it was important for the Council to have an outward focus and assess what the community is asking from Council and then to look at designing its strategic directions based on what Council is being called upon to do.

Christiane provided some highlights of Andrew Taylor's summary of the March 8, 2019 discussion. A copy of the summary will be made available.

Some of the responses from the discussion include the desire to feel safe, to (simply) reduce the amount of crime, to keep our children safe, to intervene with the opioid crisis, etc.

Andrew also observed that Council is being called upon for dialogue and engagement that can lead to meaningful action in a very nimble and flexible way and for strategic thinking that has a long term evidence based focus based on upstream approaches.

The overall theme is as follows: There is an opportunity for all sectors around the table to evaluate how, what they do everyday, contributes to a larger agenda for a just, safe, fair, healthy community where no one is left behind and how sectors lend strength to the community. This is the essence of what WRCPC is all about.

Finally, Council should be the place that amplifies the voices from the margins and by amplifying those voices help the community and beyond to understand what inequality and inequity is actually all about and how crime is one its consequences.

## **8. Upstream Prevention Practice and 6 Current Issues:**

The WRCPC was asked to participate in a practice run on Upstream prevention looking at six current issues:

1. The Opioid Crisis
2. Violence Against Women
3. Low Graduation Rates
4. Social Disorder in the Cores
5. Hate Crimes Against Muslims
6. Cyberbullying

David Siladi set the stage for the main activity by showing the [WRCPC Upstream Prevention](#) video and providing the background information about some of the key ideas from the upstream approaches knowledge that has been co-developed over the last couple of years.

When looking at the spectrum of prevention, it is important to note that at the downstream end there tends to be more specialized types of services to address specific needs of individuals. Moving up the spectrum, there are more collaborations and groups working together but the focus still tends to be singular. It tends to be focused on specific issues. It is really at the upstream level where there is an overarching perspective and more integrated approach to well-being and not just a specific or particular issue in the community.

At the downstream the community is dealing with the warning signs and symptoms of problems e.g. anti-social behaviour, problematic substance use or criminal behaviour that has already happened. Moving up the spectrum the community moves into the territory of social determinants of health e.g. income, housing and social support

networks. What is important to note is that moving beyond the social determinants of health and into structural determinants of health is where many issues converge. As a result, the upstream end of the spectrum is about fostering equity and dealing with inequity. If it is universal type of prevention; i.e. equality.

Discussions need to happen at the upstream end not just for individuals and groups and the population but at the structures and systems levels.

Christiane Sadeler shared that in 2002 the WRCPC released a report about accessible recreation for ALL children and youth in the community. The research literature showed that the community would most likely see a reduction in many of the community challenges like problematic substance use etc. if there were no barriers to recreation for any child. She posed the question where our community be 16 years later if we had invested in accessible recreation at that time.

The purpose of the exercise was to equipped the WRCPC to be ambassadors using a **common language** for the upstream approaches to further advance upstream momentum and to foster equity.

Irene O'Toole asked that the WRCPC Upstream Prevention video be widely distributed. Christiane shared that the all the tools are available for WRCPC to take to their sector round tables. They are also (give or take) available on the Council website.

David Siladi shared one process that WRCPC might use during the exercise. During Alfgeir Kristjansson presentation about the Iceland model, Alfgeir spoke about the "causes of the causes" of substance use amongst youth. David asked the WRCPC to take it one step further starting from the level of the individual all the way up to the societal systems and structural level.

Julie Thompson gave an example for the WRCPC of how upstream thinking can happen using the Human Sex Trafficking work as a model. This model is not a final product but rather a way of thinking through old issues in new ways. Please see PPT attached.

The WRCPC participated in focus group discussions asking the following questions:

1. What are the drivers of the issue?
2. What does this mean for upstream approaches in Waterloo Region?
3. What did you find at the upstream?
4. What might we do about that as a local crime prevention council?

## **9. Other Business:**

Christiane Sadeler announced the Strategic Planning session with Henry Mintzberg is being held at the Regional Administrative Headquarters in Regional Council Chambers on May 7, 2019. An invitation for the event will be emailed out to the Council.

**June 14, 2019 Council Meeting:**

Christiane shared that there was an opportunity for have a joint meeting with the connectors hub of Wellbeing Waterloo Region and asked Council to approve this change in schedule.

A motion was made to cancel the June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Council meeting so that WRCPC can have a joined meeting with Wellbeing Waterloo Region on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Moved by Sharon Ward-Zeller and

Seconded by Kathy Payette

Carried

**10. Adjournment:**

Moved by Courtney Didier at 11:36 a.m.





Let's Start

UPstream™

Together

[#StartUpstream](#)



# CHELSEA'S STORY

A powerful play that explores the growing issue of human sex trafficking.



By Sean McGrath ~ AlterEgo Creative Solutions  
Directed by Pam Patel  
Produced by Sam Varteniuk  
Tickets: \$20 / \$15 students & seniors / \$5 eyeGO

Feb 21-23 @ 7:30 pm  
Feb 23-24 @ 2 pm  
The Registry Theatre  
122 Frederick St. (at Weber St.) Kitchener  
519-578-1570 ~ [www.registrytheatre.com](http://www.registrytheatre.com)

Presented by JM Drama & The Registry Theatre  
Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region | Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council



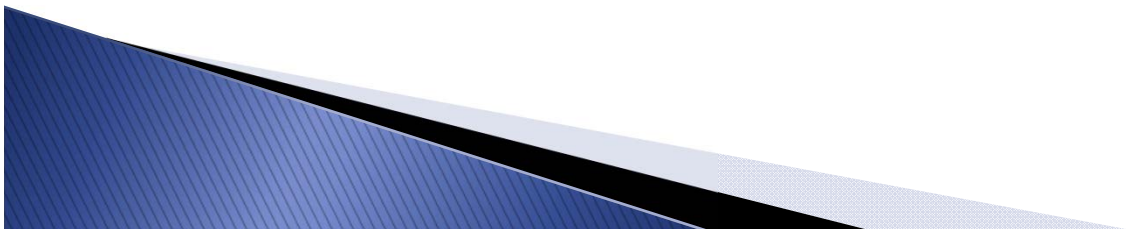
## Human Sex Trafficking WR

My journey to  
understand



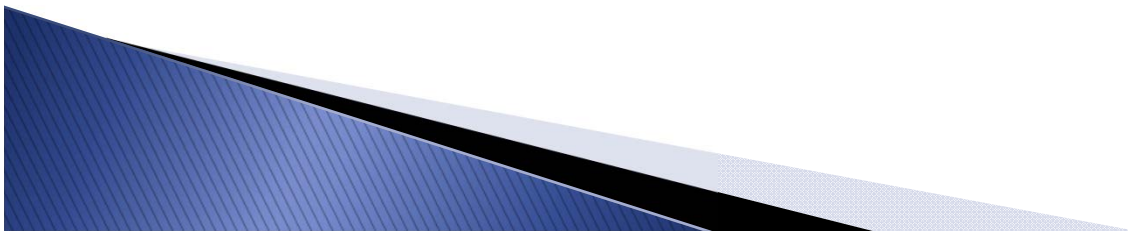
# Human Sex Trafficking

The sale of humans for sex involving deceit, force, coercion and control for the purpose of sexual exploitation.



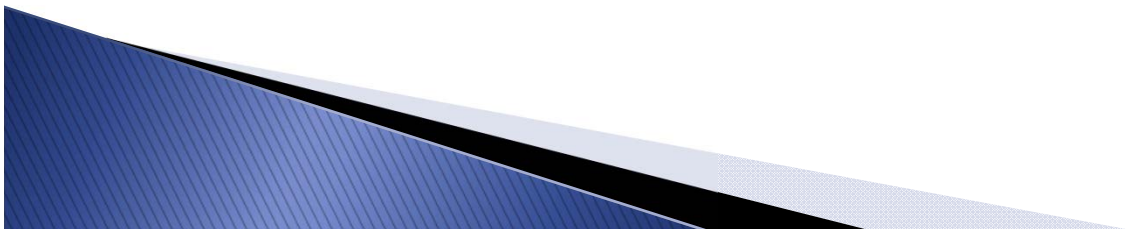
# Human Sex Trafficking

is largely going on undetected  
and unreported.



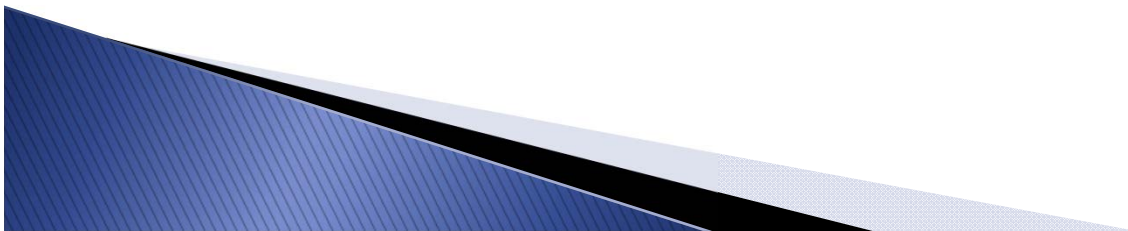
## Sex Trafficking is a gendered issue

- ▶ 93% are girls and women
- ▶ Average age of recruitment is  
**13-15**



## The 2 primary risk factors predisposing victims

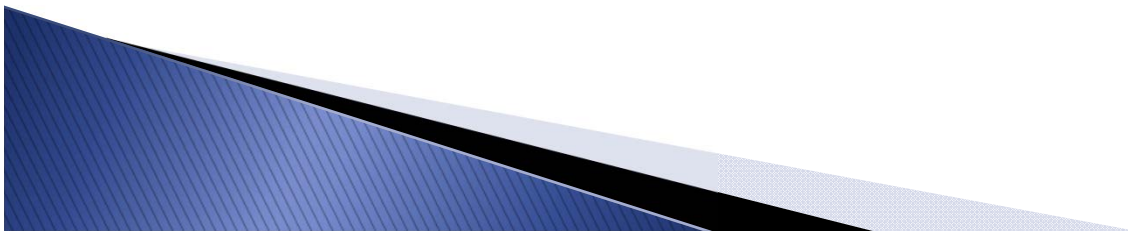
- ▶ Being Female
- ▶ Age





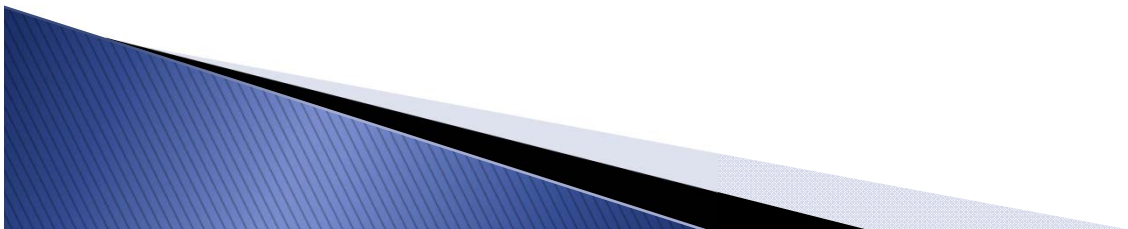
**Sex Trafficking  
is a gendered issue**

**Most traffickers are men**



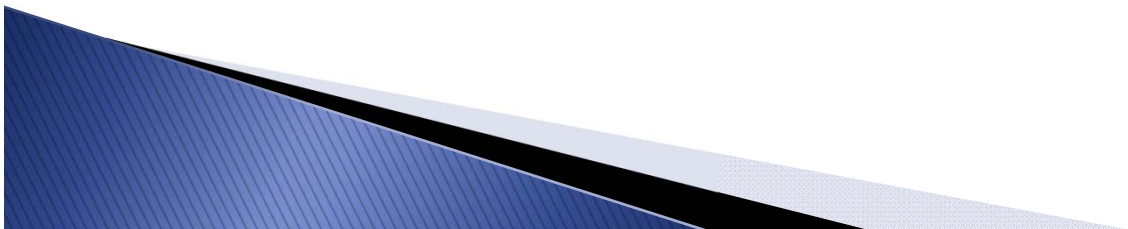
## Sex Trafficking is also an economic issue

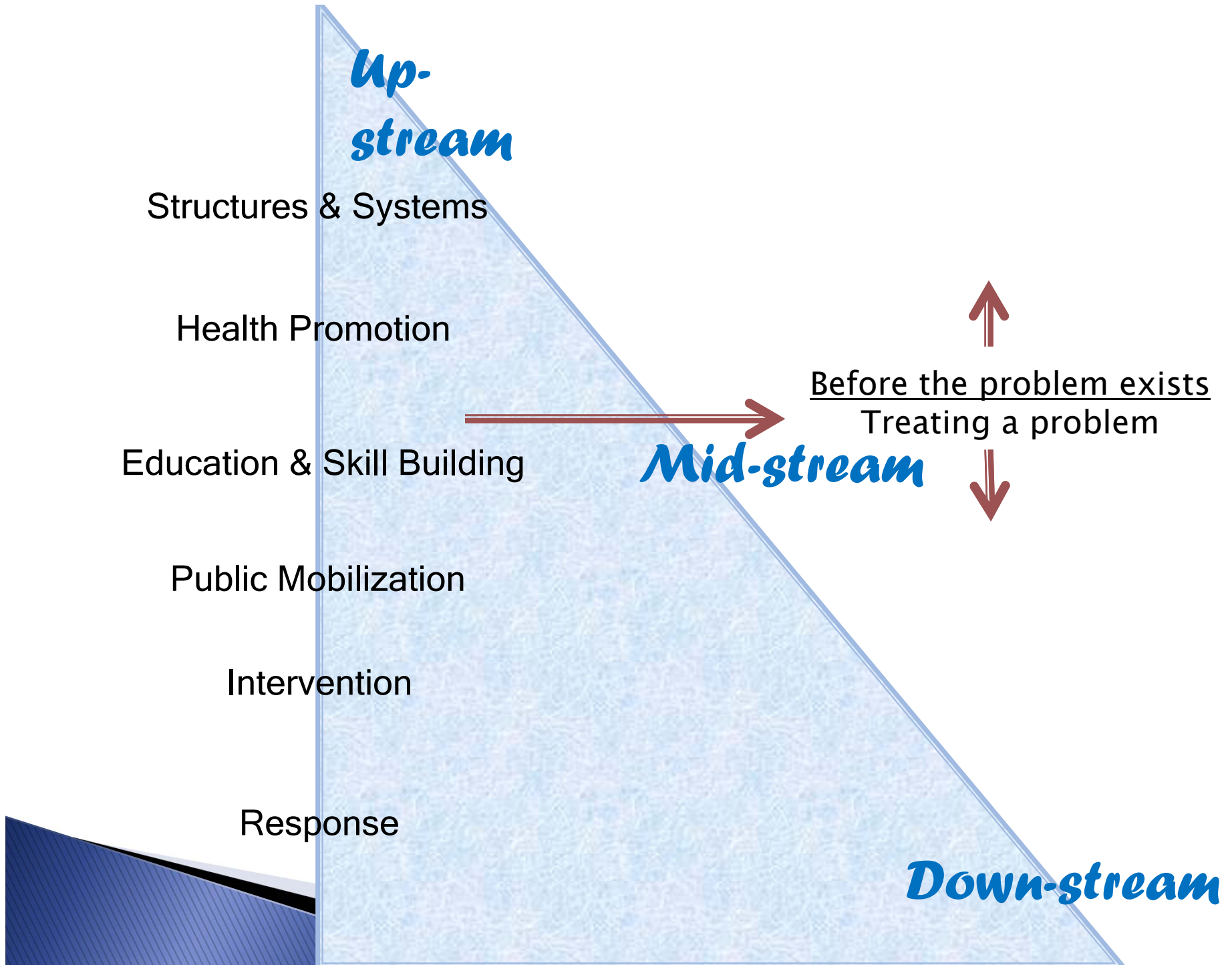
- ▶ Average profits from one victim  
\$280,800/year
- ▶ And less likely to get caught than  
trafficking in drugs.
- ▶ Can resell a person



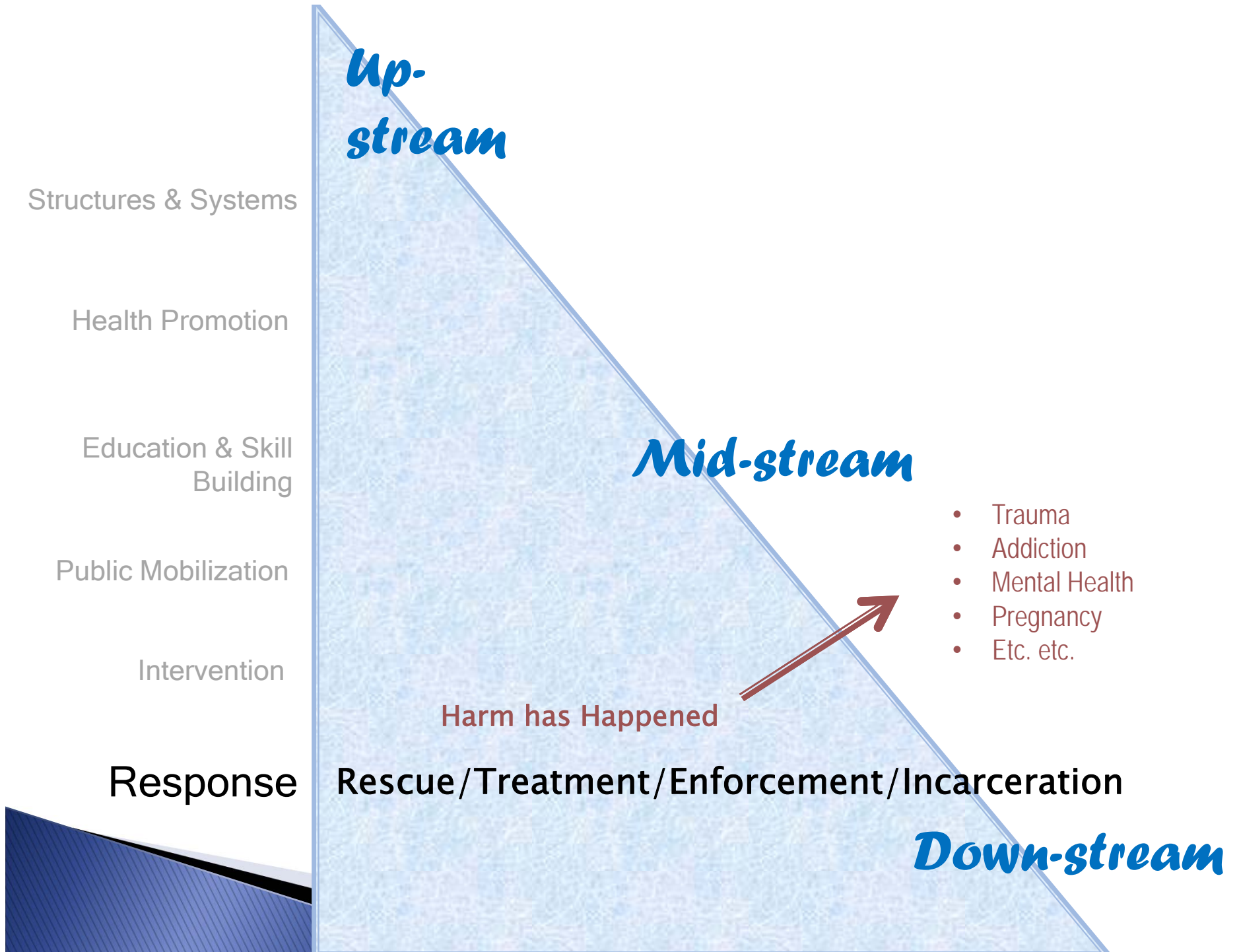
# Sex Trafficking is also an technology issue

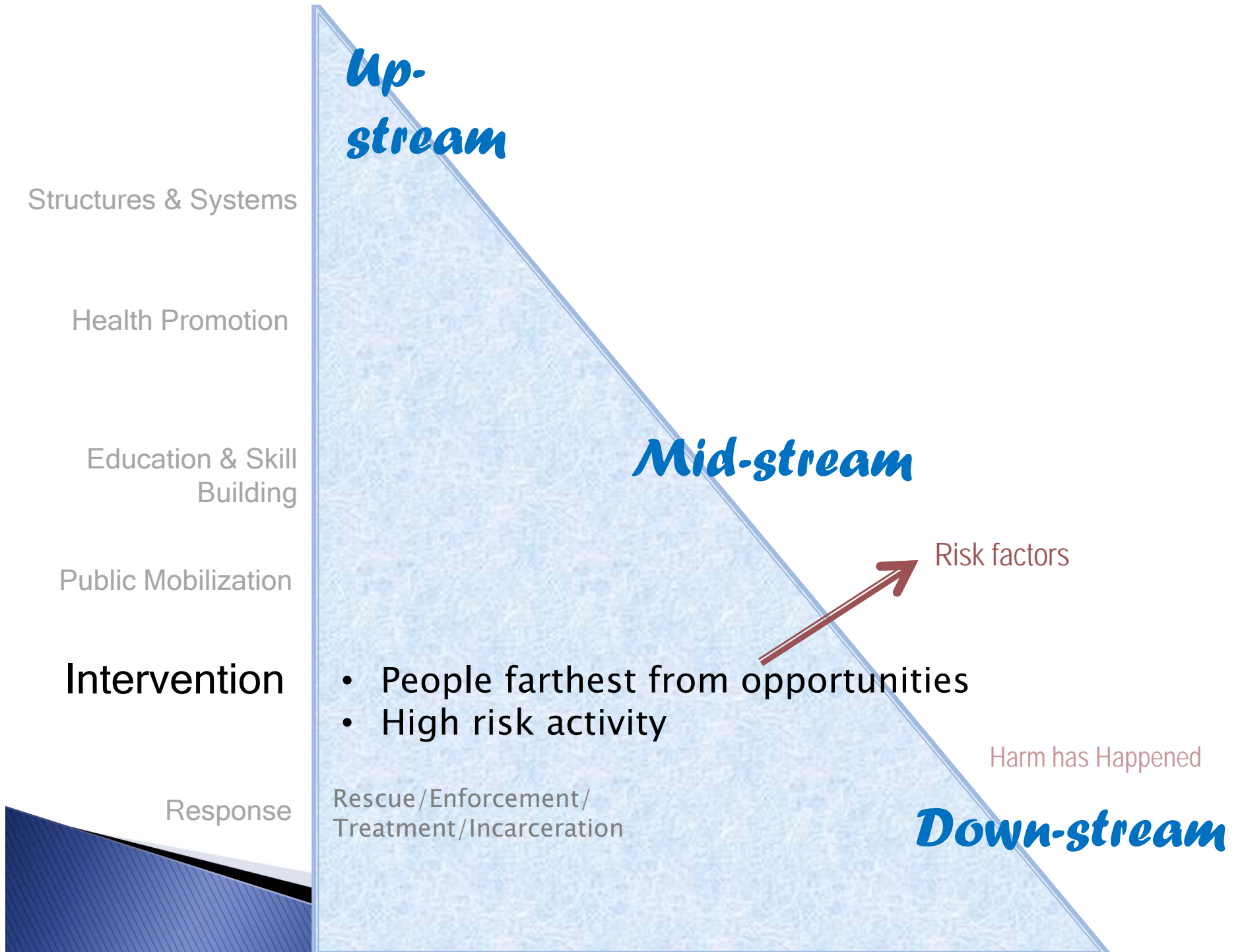
- ▶ Facilitating access even when we think they are safe
- ▶ Facilitating sale and promotion protecting anonymity

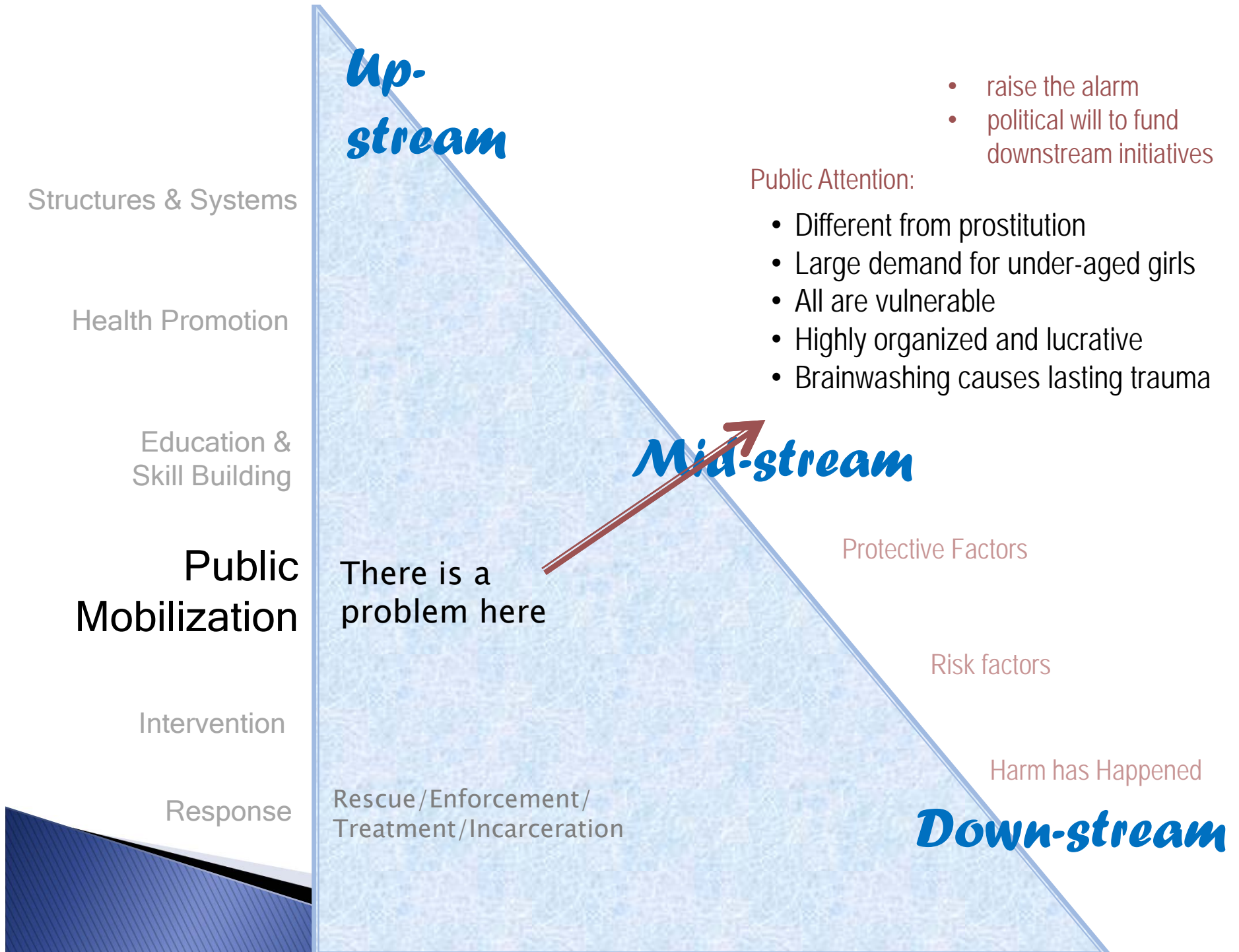


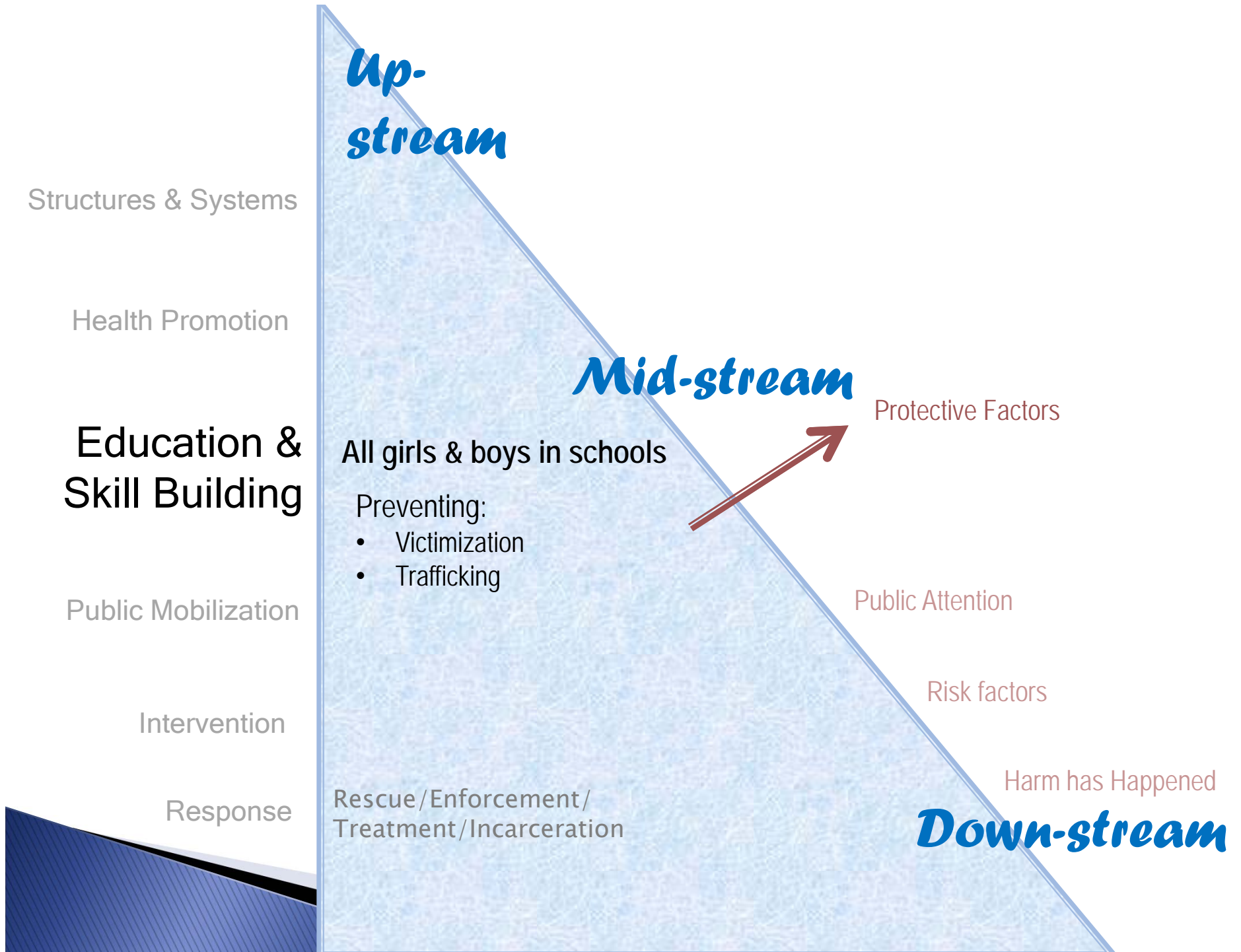














# Up-stream

Ethics- Values- Relationships

Structures & Systems

Health Promotion

# Mid-stream

Before the problem exists  
Treating a problem

Education & Skill Building

Girls Boys



**William G Davis**  
Gd.7&8

Protective Factors

Public Mobilization

Public Awareness  
-of the problem



**Theatre**

Public Attention



**KPL**

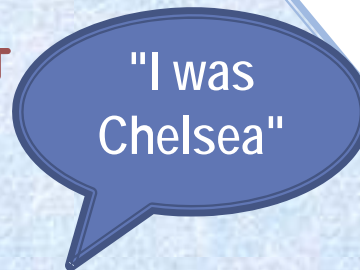
Risk factors

Intervention

- Youth farthest from opportunities
- High risk activity



**MPAHT**



Harm has happened.

Response

Rescue/Enforcement  
Treatment/Incarceration

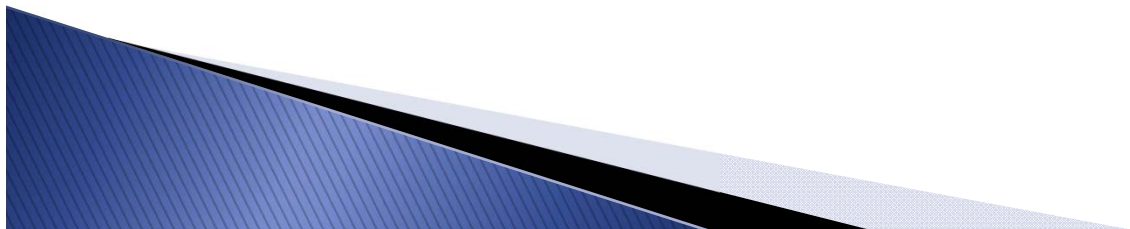


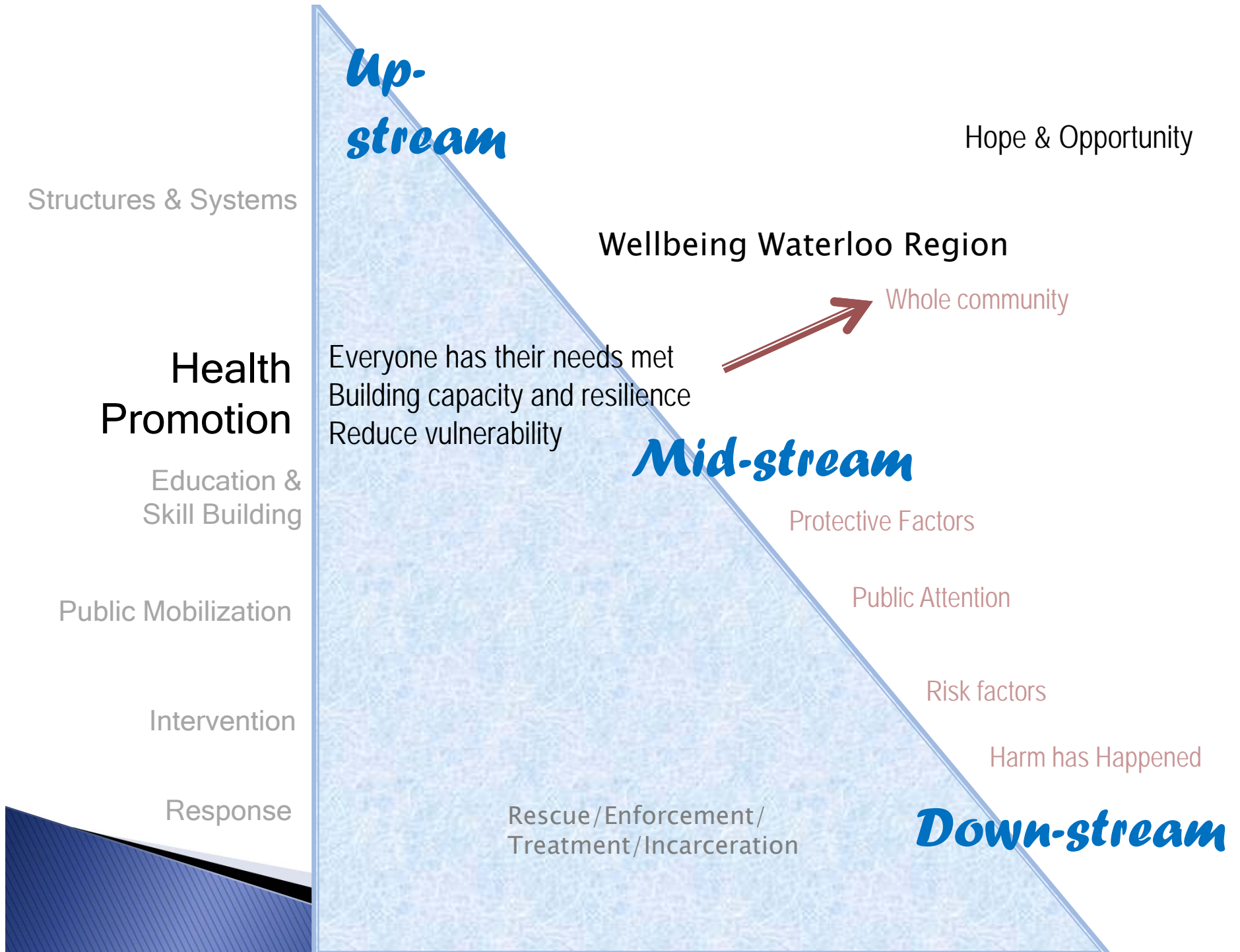
**GVI**

# Down-stream

# What are the drivers?

Victims	Traffickers	Johns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attention</li><li>• Love and Romance</li><li>• Acceptance</li><li>• Fun/partying/drugs</li><li>• Gaming mastery</li><li>• A place to sleep/eat</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Money</li><li>• Power</li><li>• Acceptance</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paid sex with...</li></ul> <p><b>WHY?</b></p>





# Up-stream

Structures & Systems

Gender Equity  
Economic Equity

Ethics- Values- Relationships



How do we address demand for sex with children and others who are vulnerable?

Health Promotion

Whole community

# Mid-stream

Education & Skill Building

Protective Factors

Public Mobilization

Public Attention

Intervention

Risk factors

Response

Harm has happened.

# Down-stream

Rescue/Enforcement/  
Treatment/Incarceration





## Smart Update (Consent Agenda)

For the Meeting of WRCPC on May 10, 2019

The Consent Agenda is published on a bi-monthly basis. **Please review this report before meetings.** Any Council member has the right to “pull” an item from the Consent Agenda and add it to the regular agenda for discussion, comment, or clarification. Approved consent agendas are published on the Council’s [website](#) along with approved minutes. Consent Agendas are selective, not comprehensive. Whenever possible, Consent Agenda items reflect the key **approaches** of the Smart on Crime 2015-2018 plan designed to accomplish three overarching Council directions.

- Youth: Unleashing the Potential of ALL Youth
- Neighbourhoods: Building Local Capacity for Change
- Smart on Crime: Advancing the Momentum

Through four strategic approaches:

### Expand Reach through Understanding and Engagement

- **Chelsea’s Story** had its last showing on April 9th in Toronto hosted by “Meeting Professionals Against Human Trafficking”. Chelsea’s Story’s Playwright, Sean McGrath came from the UK to see the show and met with the Working Group and Community Engagement committee. He shared several interesting perspectives: (1) The UK had three high profile sex trafficking rings exposed in the past few years. (2) Canada is still trying to get citizens to believe that sex trafficking happens here, whereas in the UK, because of these cases, people know it happens and they want to mobilizes to prevent it. (3) A cost analysis showed that the cost of human sex trafficking is one million pounds per victim. (4) He defined psychological control involved in trafficking as that moment when “the locks are no longer on the doors”. Staff are currently working on a report for this project to be shared with WRCPC and Regional Council in the near future.

- The **Chelsea's Story** working group nominated 16-year-old Jacy Morneau for the Kitchener Youth Action Council's Award for Arts and Culture and she won!!! WOOT-WOOT! She was the stage manager for the play Chelsea's Story and she did a wonderful job. Here she is showing her award:



- Please join us May 10th for a special showing of **Guarded Girls** and a Q&A with Senator Kim Pate along with a panel of people who were incarcerated. Guarded girls will also be showing from May 8th to 19th. Tickets can be purchased at [greenlight-arts.com/guarded-girls](http://greenlight-arts.com/guarded-girls) This powerful play by Charlotte Corbeil-Coleman reveals the complex ways in which our prison system affects generations of women and how the line that separates those of us who are on the inside versus those of us who are on the outside of corrections can be very thin. The tickets are available at 20% OFF for Friends of Crime Prevention. Please use the code: **COMMUNITYPARTNER20**  
[Tickets](#): \$30 + HST General, \$22 + HST Student/Senior
- On June 1st **Breaking the Silence** will have a booth at tri-Pride Live Music Festival in Kitchener from noon to 6 pm. Please drop by to say "Hi!" and have your say on the "A Place to call Safe" Graffiti Wall community art project. #BreakingTheSilence. On June 20<sup>th</sup> (date tentative) Breaking the Silence will attend Pride inside GVI. This will be the first introduction of BTS to the LGTBQ2+ community of GVI. We hope that this will be the first of many future opportunities.

- There are two **porch chats** currently in the planning stages:

**Find Your Superpower to Change the Story:** A social justice scavenger hunt for families will be hosted on Saturday, June 15 from 10 am – 1:30 pm at KPL. Friends of Crime Prevention is teaming up with the KPL and a crew of students from UW to challenge families to explore super powers such as kindness, compassion and connection. A FREE Lunch will be included after the event.



The second **Porch Chat** will focus on Brave Spaces and will take place some time in July. Details to follow!

- WRPCPC staff have agreed to present to elected officials and municipal staff from across Canada at the **Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)** annual conference in June. The focus for the session is guidance for resolving Canada’s ongoing drug-poisoning crisis.
- WRPCPC staff presented to youth, service providers and elected officials on the **Conversations of Substance: Youth in Waterloo Region on Issues of Substance Use Report** and the WR-YES! at Cambridge City Hall. Members of WRPCPC received a copy of the report by separate email and it can again be accessed here: [Conversations of Substance: Youth in Waterloo Region on Issues of Substance Use](#)

The report highlights findings from focus groups conducted throughout Waterloo region with youth farthest from opportunities (aka ‘at-risk’, ‘marginalized’, ‘disengaged’ etc.). Key findings point to issues related to:

1. Social environment
2. Social and structural stigma and discrimination
3. Mental health and well-being

- **Conversations of Substance: Youth in Waterloo Region on Issues of Substance Use Report** follows the WRPCPC report [Ounce of Prevention](#) from the fall of 2018. That report was developed to inform the discussions on cannabis legalization and regulation and cited significantly higher rates of cannabis use when compared to European counterparts. In particular, **Ounce of Prevention** drew attention to the near-absence of, attention to, and funding for upstream prevention.

Both reports have been shared with the Region's Community Services Committee, with coverage provided by local media.

- WRPCPC staff also provided an update on the WR-YES! at an **All-Council meeting** (elected officials from area municipalities and Region) as part of the Waterloo Region Public Health Opioid Response Plan

### **Base Change in Good Evidence and Innovation**

- WRPCPC has continued its involvement in and support of the measurement and monitoring work of the **Wellbeing Waterloo Region** initiative. In addition, as one of the funding partners of the **community wellbeing survey** carried out last year, WRPCPC has signed a data sharing agreement which provides the organization with access to the full data set. Discussions and planning about the specific kinds of survey analysis that would be relevant to WRPCPC's work will be getting underway soon.
- Together with staff from Wellbeing Waterloo Region, WRPCPC staff responded to a request from the **Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention (CMNCP)**, who wanted to learn more about the community wellbeing survey carried out in Waterloo Region. The advice and information shared with CMNCP served to help with planning and development of the community safety and wellbeing plan in Williams Lake, B.C.
- On May 3, WRPCPC staff delivered a presentation at the **2019 National Conference on Critical Perspectives in Criminology**. The presentation focused on upstream approaches to community safety and wellbeing. The invitation to present at the conference came from Dr. James Popham, a professor at Laurier, who was one of the conference organizers; James is also a member of WRPCPC's advisory group on research and evaluation (AGORE).
- On March 29, WRPCPC staff participated in the annual forum put by the **Data Networking Group (DNWG)** of the Region of Waterloo. DNWG (of which WRPCPC is a member) helps to bring together various departments within the Regional government to facilitate knowledge sharing on the topics related to data and research. The focus of this year's forum was on using data to understand changes in the economy, climate, transportation, demographics as well as health and social issues in Waterloo Region.
- Final products for the **evaluation of WRPCPC's 2014-2018 Smart on Crime community plan** are currently being prepared and reviewed. The final products will take the form of five knowledge briefs, which will outline findings, insights and

recommendations from the evaluation (three of the briefs will highlight stories illustrating WRCPC's contributions in the community). One of the evaluators from Laurier's Centre for Community Research, Learning and Action (CCRLA) will deliver a presentation on the overall findings and recommendations at the May WRCPC meeting.

- The whiteboard video for **WRCPC's historical narrative project**, spearheaded by Conestoga College, is nearing completion. The project team is finalizing the storyboard as well as the plan for narration. Initial planning is also underway for creating an online, interactive timeline depicting WRCPC's milestones over the last 20+ years. Both the video and timelines will accompany the report about the WRCPC story over two decades as a backbone organization.

### **Lead side by side - leverage dynamic partnerships**

- WRCPC staff provided support to the Waterloo Region District School Board's '**Youth Voices' series**, which wrapped up in April, and provided opportunities for approximately 100 high school students identified as farther from opportunities compared to their peers. Staff also provided a presentation on the WRCPC WR-YES! at the April closing.
- The **Ontario "Community of Practice" team** met for the first time in April. Comprised of some public health units and WRCPC, this Community of Practice was formed over several months to further develop a (hybridized) Icelandic prevention model in select Ontario communities.
- A first draft of a gap analysis between the required /mandated aspects of the **Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan** (CSWBP) and the work of WWR and WRCPC has been completed and will inform next steps in the near future. As report will be shared with WRCPC before the June meeting. Staff participated in a webinar about CSWB plans and found no substantive changes from previous iterations.
- Requests and opportunities for support of and partnerships with organizations from across the community and beyond are manifold and increasingly hard to meet. In the most recent weeks these included but were not limited to: A new chapter of Neighbourhood Watch, The Child and Youth Advocacy Center, MCC, Waterloo Global Science Initiative, Grand River Film Festival, etc. These requests are daunting because of the progressive erosion of social capital. They are also encouraging because they signal a continued determination on parts of many to keep the barn raising mentality of the community front and center.



- The **Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention (CMNCP)** while not successful in securing core funding at this time has been landing some fee for services contracts that both advance the mission of crime prevention and help to sustain the network to some extent. CMNCP's challenges in this regard mirror the challenges of many other successful "pilot" projects that nonetheless are unable to find sustainable support. Addressing systemic challenges on a pilot project basis is unlikely to be cost effective in the long run. This message has been conveyed to Public Safety Canada on behalf of the network and especially the participants in their recent strategic planning sessions of which WRPCPC was one.

### **Advocate for Equity and Belonging. Reduce Marginalization and Discrimination**



- 120 people attended the **Speak Up: A Forum on Anti-Racism** event on March 21 at the KPL. It involved a digital story screening produced by African, Caribbean and Black identified youth, a youth panel and an adult panel. Conversations revolved around the historical context of systemic racism in Canada, what racism continues to look like in Canada and how it affects people in the Waterloo Region, and some of the key things we can do to address racism in our daily lives. The event received high praise, with many people expressing the need for further conversations on the topic and specific praise for the youth-led digital story and youth panelists. Adult panelists represented various sectors, including Indigenous perspectives, settlement, health, education, and law. The Immigration Partnership Council, the Office of MPP Lindo and the Coalition of Muslim Women-WR helped in the planning of this event. Rohan Thompson was recognized at the event for his important contribution to encouraging this dialogue in our community. **The next Speak Up event will be held on March 21, 2020 at the KPL, and will be designed for parents with young children, youth and adults.**
- The **Black Brilliance conference** will be held on November 22, 2019 at the Google building. This event will highlight Black excellence. Conversations are underway with the WRDSB and African, Caribbean and Black identified youth from 16 high schools

who are leading the creation of this event. Focus groups have been held at nine high schools which were not previously engaged. Students from all high schools will meet at the WRDSB Education Centre on May 21 to continue conversations around race equity and prepare for the Black Brilliance conference.

- The funder for WRPCPC's Youth Reference Group (YRG) has been ordered to [cease operations](#) by the Province. The Gambling Research Exchange Ontario (GREO) was expected to provide the bulk of funding for the YRG in support of the WR-YES! WRPCPC had worked with GREO to successfully procure funding for the 2019 WRDSB Youth Voices events. The YRG, to be comprised of youth farthest from opportunities, is foundational to the development of the WR YES! This reduced opportunity is especially troubling since the Provincial government is expanding opportunities to engage in gambling and alcohol consumption across Ontario.

## Community Corner

In this section, you can find information about community opportunities as well as key items of information related to the work of WRPCPC and its partners. Most items are included upon request from community partners.

- May 28th We are working with Community Justice Initiatives to host a Book Release Event for Timea Nagy's book **Out of the Shadows**. The event will include a discussion with Authors Timea Nagy and Shannon Moroney. It will be in the evening of May 28th at the downtown Kitchener Public Library.
- The **Gahu Project**, a racial justice community music initiative, was holding events May 4-6 in Kitchener featuring professional and local artists. The final celebration on May 6 9:30am-1:30pm featured 400 high school students of all backgrounds and abilities, along with Ghanaian master drummer Kwasi Dunyo, for a Ghanaian dancing, drumming and singing performance. These ACB students from Cameron Heights make up the Afro Fusion Dance Team and can be found on their [website](#) #thegahuproject #musicmonday #racialjustice #communitymusic #afrofusion
- A request from Bill Wilson:

Dear Friends,

I just signed the petition: **Reverse Cuts to Legal Aid Ontario Funding**.

It would mean a lot to me if you took a moment to add your name because:

On April 11, with the release of the Budget, the Government of Ontario made a significant cut of approximately one third of all legal aid funding, which will jeopardize the rights of those who need legal representation the most.

Many refugee claimants arrive in Canada with almost nothing. Many are dealing with the aftermath of extreme personal trauma and struggle with PTSD, depression or other mental health issues as a result of the events that caused them to leave their homes and countries of origin. Often with little to no English, and even less legal knowledge, they are required to file legal forms, collect evidence, and appear in a hearing to test their claim. They are not equipped to represent themselves in Canada's refugee determination system, a highly specialized legal field. This is why Legal Aid funding is so essential to protect the rights of such a vulnerable population and to ensure that their full story is heard by a refugee decision-maker through providing access to legal representation.

Access to Legal Aid is also essential to low-income Ontarians who are facing legal proceedings such as in criminal, family, mental health, poverty law and child protection cases. These Ontarians will struggle to navigate these legally complex, high-stakes proceedings without legal assistance or resources.

The impact of these cuts is huge. Vulnerable populations like refugees are left to represent themselves in a complex and already overburdened legal system, where a negative decision leads to deportation to countries where lives may be at risk. The cuts will lead to backlogs and delays throughout the justice system, causing chaos in the courts and costing taxpayers more, not less.

URGENT! Sign your name to the petition now – let the Government of Ontario know that you care about funding to Legal Aid and are concerned about how it will impact the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people in our society, including refugees and immigrants in Ontario.

Here's the link: <https://you.leadnow.ca/petitions/reverse-cuts-to-legal-aid-ontario-funding-caroline-mulroney>

Real change happens when everyday people like you and I come together and stand up for what we believe in. Together we can reach heaps of people and help create change around this important issue.

After you've signed the petition please also take a moment to share it with others. It's super easy – all you need to do is forward this email.

Thank you!  
Bill

- SASC is hosting: **Online Violence - Redefining the 'Trolling' and 'Cyberbullying'**

on May 16th at Federation Hall. This talk will explore how gendered online harassment and other hateful and dehumanizing discourse causes palpable harm, and what we can do to build communities and institutions that uphold human rights  
[Tickets \\$10](#)

- Family and Children's Services of Waterloo Region invitation to **Growing Your Future Celebrating You**. Join the Agency & Foundation for an evening celebrating Youth & Families, Thursday, June 13, 2019 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. at The Family Centre - 65 Hanson Avenue, Kitchener. RSVP by Tuesday, June 4th.
- A message shared by **John Neufeld, Executive Director, House of Friendship:**

Dear Fellow Community Leaders,

I have long had a strong suspicion that we get to serve with truly amazing community leaders. This week completely shredded any bits of doubt. THANK-YOU for your kind words and willingness to help. We've shared with our whole House of Friendship team the kind of support and encouragement you gave and they were incredibly moved and encouraged.

The hardest part of yesterday was receiving an email from a mother who lost her daughter to addiction last year. She wrote, "I just wanted to tell you how sorry I am about the fire. My family members were on duty last night and helped knock it down. Many of us that are fighting for these services are beyond devastated. I would like to offer myself to volunteer either there or at any location. Doesn't matter what you need I would love to help just point me in the right direction."

When we shared the news with our program participants in the day treatment program, they told us to keep going and were so sorry and gave "us their condolences".

With the strength of the individuals and families we have the privilege to serve and your support, we will move forward courageously. THANK-YOU for walking with us during this time. We truly are stronger together and incredibly grateful for each of you!

We can and we will rebuild!

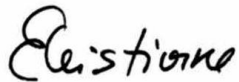
With gratitude,

John

## What is up in the WRCPC office?

- WRCPC staff continue to stay the course of upstream prevention approaches as the most recent mandate provided to us by the community. Simultaneously staff engage in many mid stream efforts as requested by the community. It is fair to say that the work has become exceedingly challenging. Working with reduced resources at a time when future developments are uncertain and in an environment that is characterized by decisions impacting communities and yet outside of any community control seemingly stands to erode the very notion of proactive measures at any part of the spectrum. Nonetheless WRCPC has weathered similar storms in the past and at times these moments in our history have served to put aside any differences and unite our efforts with kindred organizations.
- The collaboration with Well-being Waterloo Region has been particularly encouraging in this context. But partnerships with organizations such as the Immigration Partnership Council and the Coalition of Muslim Women (to name only two) also illustrate that staying grounded in the values of WRCPC puts this “little tug boat” in line with others who similarly are invested in a safe and promising future for all people in our community. The quote by Margaret Mead, that so often appears in reports of the WRCPC, rings more true today than ever: Never underestimate what a committed group of thoughtful citizen can do to change the world. **It is in fact the only thing that ever has.**

Respectfully submitted,



Christiane Sadeler, Executive Director,  
May 07, 2019