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What is SWANzine?

The SWANzine newsletter is a guide to health, legal, social, employment, and community information for women engaged in indoor sex work in the Lower Mainland. English and Chinese versions are available. If you require SWANzine in another language, please let us know.



If there is a topic you would like to see in SWANzine, please send us your questions or comments.

SWAN Announcements

New Staff SWAN has expanded again! Jennifer has been hired to do online outreach and will connect with women working in private residences through text, email and phone. Jennifer speaks Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese, French and English. Jane has also joined the SWAN team and will be helping with both online outreach and outreach to massage parlours. Jane speaks Mandarin, Cantonese and English. To contact Jennifer or Jane in Mandarin or Cantonese, please call or text 778-865-6343, or you can e-mail them at netreach@swanvancouver.ca. We have also hired Kim as our new Outreach Coordinator. You will see her dropping off monthly supplies.

Social Media Keep up-to-date on the pending legal changes by visiting our social media pages!



www.facebook.com/SwanVancouver



twitter.com/SWAN_Vancouver

You don't need an account to access these pages. You can visit them anonymously without "following" or "liking" us.

Durex Condoms Unfortunately, our supplier no longer has Durex condoms in the blue packaging. We realize this is the preferred choice of many women, however at this time these condoms are unavailable to us. We are working hard to find an alternative option but for the foreseeable future, SWAN will only have Lifestyles condoms. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Seeing a Nurse If you would like to see a nurse, we can help you book an appointment at a community clinic. You can usually get an appointment within 1-2 days. SWAN staff are available to accompany you to an appointment to provide support or translation if needed. We can also arrange for a nurse to visit you at your workplace, but this may take approximately 2 weeks to arrange with our community partner BCCDC.

Note: SWAN does not have nurses on staff.





CANADA HAS NEW FEDERAL PROSTITUTION LAWS

Bill C-36 has now become law. As of November 6th/2014, the laws will criminalize:

- clients for purchasing sexual services
- advertising online or in print (with the exception of advertising one's own services)
- those who gain material benefit from sex work (e.g., managers, drivers etc.)
- communicating for the purposes of selling sex near a playground, school or daycare

We still do not know how these laws will be enforced in your municipality.

SWAN is working on a 1-2 page document to be handed out, summarizing the laws and what they could mean to you as we continue to gather information on how these laws are being enforced. We are available to answer any questions you have and we encourage you to ask them! To find out more about Bill C-36 and the new laws, visit the [Legal Page](#) on our website.

Impacts of the proposed laws. Here is what some of you are saying:

"Business is slow because clients are scared."

"I am afraid I will have to work in a condo where it is much less safe than a massage parlour. At the parlour we have cameras, other women and managers to protect us. At a condo, I would be alone."

"Lots of managers are selling [massage parlours] because they are worried about the new law. I don't know where I am going to end up working, or even if there will be any business."

"How am I supposed to advertise my services?"



Do you have concerns about the new laws? Are you already feeling their impact? We want to know what you think so that we can better advocate on your behalf. You can call, text or email anonymously, or talk to an outreach worker.

Need to talk to a lawyer?

The Canadian Bar Association has a Lawyer Referral Service program that enables the public to access lawyers. A 30-minute consultation with a lawyer costs \$25 plus tax.



For more information visit cbabc.org/Advocacy/Initiatives/Lawyer-Referral-Service

To access this service call:
604-687-3221; or
1-800-663-1919
Mon-Fri, 8:30am-4:30pm



Free Legal Advice

Pivot Legal Clinics
Atira Women's Resource Society
101 East Cordova
By appointment only
604-331-1407

For women only (sex work specific info available)

Jane Doe Legal Network
If you are a woman who has experienced violence and need legal help, the Jane Doe Legal Network may be able to provide you with confidential legal advice.

Contact Shahnaz Rahman at West Coast LEAF for more info: 604-684-8772, Ext. 123



Sex Work and Immigration: Question and Answer

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) is the federal agency that is responsible for border enforcement, immigration enforcement and customs services. A reliable source answered some common questions sex workers asked regarding the CBSA.



Need legal advice?

Law Students' Legal Advice Program (LSLAP)

Free Refugee/Immigration legal advice is provided by UBC law students, working under the guidance of supervising lawyers.

Confidential.

Call 604-822-5791

Mon-Fri 9:30am-4:30pm to make an appointment

Clinics available:

Vancouver

Gordon Neighborhood House
1019 Broughton St.

Surrey

Chuck Bailey Rec Centre
13458 107A Ave

For more information, go to www.lslap.bc.ca



1.) When you come into a massage parlour and write down my personal details, what happens to that information?

The information is recorded in the officers' notebook and then the name and date-of-birth are checked for status. If the officer believes there is a violation of Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) then an investigation is launched. If not, nothing is done with your personal details and there is no record of the status check. However, you will not know if an investigation has been started and have no way of knowing.



2.) Will my passport be marked that I am a sex worker?

Sex work does not fall under a serious criminal allegation as it is not illegal to be a sex worker, therefore your passport cannot be marked that you are a sex worker. However, if you have been convicted of a prostitution-related offence under the Criminal Code of Canada, your passport can be marked with this conviction in the CBSA database. This may affect your re-entry into Canada, but this information is not shared with other countries, e.g. your country of origin.

3.) My partner doesn't know that I'm a sex worker. If I am applying for a partner visa, will CBSA tell my partner that I am a sex worker? What can I do to maintain my confidentiality?

CBSA will not disclose this information to anyone. This information is restricted and cannot be shared with the public. If a member of the public wants information from the CBSA, they must submit an Access to Information Request and even then, this information will not be released.

4.) Does CBSA tell government officials from my country of origin that I am a sex worker in Canada?

No. It is against Canadian law. The information shared is extremely limited. CBSA cannot even lawfully tell another country that someone is claiming refugee status against them, nor can they disclose the nature of criminality that causes someone to be deported from Canada.

5.) Will I be deported for being a sex worker in Canada?

That depends. If you are found to have overstayed your 6 months as a visitor, you can be deported. You would not be deported because of your involvement in sex work, but rather because you have overstayed your 6 months as a visitor, which may be easier to detect as a sex worker because of increased interaction with law enforcement. Because there are no official records for sex work, the possibility of proving a "working" allegation under IRPA is very unlikely. It is technically possible if the work can be proven, but this has rarely, if ever been documented.

**questions adopted from RED Magazine - Resourcing Health & Education (RhED); Edition 25 (April 2014 – Sept 2014) sexworker.org.au/publications-and-resources/rhed-publications/red/



Supporting Women's Alternatives Network of Vancouver

Phone: (604) 719-6343 | Email: info@swanvancouver.ca

Website: www.swanvancouver.ca

Mail: P.O. 21520, 1424 Commercial Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 5G2





HIV Testing

Point of Care (POC) HIV tests (also known as rapid HIV tests) are tests which can be performed on the spot and can provide results within minutes. The test involves poking a finger with a small needle-like tool to get a small amount of blood for testing.

People who screen non-reactive or negative will know this result within a few minutes and will not have to wait to return for their results at a later date, like a standard laboratory test. People who screen reactive or preliminarily positive will have to get a blood test to confirm the result.

Pros: Timely results and nonessential follow-up on most non-reactive or negative tests.
Cons: False positives are possible. Being informed of a reactive or preliminarily positive screening may be an emotional experience and one must wait for follow-up to confirm the result.

It is also important to note that a negative result from this kind of test is only accurate if you have not been exposed to HIV in the 3 months before your test. This is often referred to as the “window period” as it can take up to 3 months for the body to build up enough HIV antibodies to be detected.

Some POC HIV Testing Locations:

**all locations listed provide testing without the requirement of MSP coverage and are free and anonymous.*

Vancouver

Vancouver Raven-Song Community Health Clinic/Bridge Clinic

2450 Ontario St., V5T 4T7
604-709-6400

Mon. - Fri. 1:30PM – 4PM

*Drop-in or appointment

*STI screening and treatment available

STOP HIV Outreach

Operates out of Three Bridges Community Health Center

1290 Hornby St., V6Z 1W9
604-838-1331

Mon. – Wed. afternoons

* Appointment needed

*Mobile team can do house calls

*STI screening and treatment available

Bute Street Clinic

1170 Bute St., V6E1Z6
604-707-2796

Mon. – Fri. 11:00AM – 6:30PM

*STI screening and treatment available

Richmond

Richmond Gilwest Clinic

Richmond Hospital
8100 Granville Ave., V6Y3T6
604-233-3135

Mon. 9:00AM – 11:30AM

Tues. 9:00AM – 12:00PM

Thurs. 4:00PM – 7:00PM

*STI screening and treatment available

New Westminister

(closest POC clinic to Burnaby)

New Westminister Public Health Unit (STI Clinic)

Suite 218 – 610 Sixth St., V3L 3C2
604-777-6740

Testing available on a drop-in basis:

1st Wed. of each month 1:30PM – 3:00PM

3rd Thurs. of each month 4:30PM – 6:00PM

*STI screening and treatment available (by appointment)

HEALTH CLINICS

VANCOUVER

Women's Health Collective BC
Women's Nurse Practitioners 29
West Hastings 604-736-5262

www.womenshealthcollective.ca

All ages. Women only. *Check-ups

*Diagnosis and prescriptions

*Specialist referrals *Birth control

*Pap tests *STI & HIV testing.

Monday 9:30am-4:30pm Tuesday-

Thursday 1:00p.-4:30pm Friday

9:30am-1:30pm. Free services. Will

not share results with family doctor if requested.

BCCDC Clinic Drop-in Clinic

1170 Bute St. 11-6:30 Mon-Fri. All
ages. Offers: *STI & HIV testing

*Birth control *Hepatitis B vaccine.

Free and confidential. No MSP

required. www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/az/s/SexuallyTransmittedInfections/clinprog/default.htm

BURNABY

Options for Sexual Health Clinic

4734 Imperial 604-731-4252

www.optionsforsexualhealth.org/providers/opt-metrotown-formerly-new-westminster

All ages. Offers: *Birth control

*pregnancy testing and options

*STI & HIV testing. Wednesdays

7pm-9pm

Youth Clinic 4734 Imperial 604-293-1764. 21 and under.

www.fraserhealth.ca/find_us/services/?program_id=9998 Offers: *STI

testing, treatment & counseling

*HIV counseling, testing and

referral *Pregnancy testing

*Emergency contraception.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 1pm-

5pm

RICHMOND

Youth Clinic 8100 Granville 604-

233-3204. 21 and under. *STI &

HIV testing *Birth control

*Morning after pill free for all

ages. Monday & Wednesday

3:30pm-5:30pm, Friday 1pm-

4pm

For clinics in **other municipalities**, check SWAN's [Health Page](#) on our website.

Sources:

<http://smartsexresource.com/> | www.bccdc.ca/POC | <http://fraserhealth.ca>



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