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ANNOUNCEMENT

New Legal Rights Card

SWAN has a new legal rights card (English, Chinese and Farsi). The purpose of the pocket card is to inform you of your rights in regard to searches, detention, arrest, translation and signing documents when visited by police or other government officials. The card also includes information how to file a police complaint if you feel you have been treated unfairly.

My Legal Rights

Statement for Police and
Government Officials



SWAN Vancouver Society
of Health & Justice
Advocates

If you have not received a card, please ask SWAN outreach the next time they visit. To view the card, go to <http://www2.swanvancouver.ca/news-and-updates>. SWAN thanks the Law Foundation for funding this project.

SWAN

Who we are: We are a culturally diverse group of women working to make indoor sex work safer. Since 2002 we have been providing free safer sex supplies; connecting women to respectful health care providers; and providing referrals, information and answers to your health, social, employment, immigration and legal questions. We publish this newsletter three times a year to keep you informed about issues that affect your work. Our services are free. In 2013-14 our non-profit community-based work is funded by the City of Vancouver.

Who we are not: We are not nurses (although we can connect you to one). We are not government employees. We are not police or immigration officials.

SWAN respects your privacy. Any information you share with us is confidential.



NEWS

Supreme Court of Canada reviews Canada's prostitution laws

On June 13, the Supreme Court of Canada heard a legal challenge to Canada's prostitution laws. Three Ontario sex workers argue that current prostitution laws violate the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and put sex workers at risk of harm. The Supreme Court has 8 months to make a decision.

To learn more what the case is all about, go to <http://rabble.ca/news/2013/06/decriminalization-sex-work-and-bedford-case-supreme-court-what-its-all-about>

To read perspective from a Vancouver-based activist who attended the Supreme Court hearing, go to http://www.pivotlegal.org/a_pivotal_moment_the_30_year_fight_for_sex_workers_rights

To watch a video of the arguments, go to <http://scc-csc.gc.insinc.com/en/clip.php?url=c%2F486%2F1938%2F201306130500wv150en%2C001Content-Type%3A+text%2Fhtml%3B+charset%3DISO-8859-1>

City of Vancouver Bylaw & Business License Review

The City of Vancouver is currently reviewing massage parlor business licenses and bylaws. The purpose is to better protect the safety, security, health and well-being of women working in these businesses. In May, SWAN asked a number of women about changes they would like to see that would positively affect their work. SWAN would like to thank all the women who responded. If you are a worker, receptionist, manager or owner and would like to provide further input, contact SWAN at 604 719 6343/info@swanvancouver.ca

SWAN can help you provide input on any policies that affect your work!

SWANzine is available on our website where you can cut and paste the URLs and links included in this newsletter.

outreach phone: 604-719-6343



email: info@swanvancouver.ca | web: www.swanvancouver.ca

SEXUAL ASSAULT

What is sexual assault?

Sexual assault is any unwanted sexual contact that ranges from unwanted sexual touching to forced sexual intercourse. When you say NO to any type of sexual act—whether at the beginning of an appointment, during or after an appointment, just to one particular service during an appointment or even if you have seen that client before—it is sexual assault if the client disregards that NO. It can sometimes be difficult to tell the difference between when a client has 'gone too far' and when a sexual assault has occurred. You do not have to have been beaten up or have physical marks for it to be legally considered a sexual assault.

Sexual Assault is Illegal

Sexual assault is a crime in Canada. Under Canadian law you have the right to say NO to any form of sexual activity whether it is with your partner, your client, employer, or anyone else. Because sexual assault is a crime—a very serious crime—you are entitled to report it to the police, get counseling and/or receive medical support.

Sexual Assault & Sex Work

People who assault sex workers may think they can get away with it. Sex workers have been told too often that they have to put up with sexual violence—that it is 'part of the job'. **This is not true.** You are entitled to say NO to any sexual act. Other occupations do not accept being abused and assaulted as part of their job—so why should sex workers?

No sex worker deserves to be assaulted. No sex worker should feel it is their fault when it happens. Workers sometimes blame themselves for not stopping a sexual assault but here is the bottom line: You agreed to provide a service. It is the client who has broken the agreement by forcing something that is against your wishes. The client is the one who committed sexual assault, not you.

What can you do if you are sexually assaulted?

- 1 Get out of the room and to a safe place as soon as possible.
- 2 Tell someone else about the sexual assault and/or find a supportive person to be with (e.g. manager, co-worker, friend). SWAN can also provide support and resources.
- 3 If you need medical attention, go to the nearest hospital. At some hospitals a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner is available (see below). If you're worried that hospital staff will not take this seriously, you can ask someone from SWAN or Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW) to come with you.
- 4 If you are at risk of further danger, go to the police. If you're worried that the police will not take this seriously, you can ask someone from SWAN or WAVAW to come with you.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) A specialized service is available to women who have been sexually assaulted. This service is provided by specially trained nurse examiners 24 hours a day within 72 or 96 hours of the incident. A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner offers sensitive, caring, supportive and confidential care following a sexual assault. A Nurse Examiner meets the patient in emergency department and then provides the option for a special examination. The following happens in the examination. The nurse

- Collects and preserves forensic (legal) evidence for use in legal proceedings
- Evaluates the risk of pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and provides appropriate treatment
- Evaluates and documents all injuries
- Provides emotional support, answers any questions you may have and provides resources for counseling services

Care is provided for all including women who do not want to report to police or have forensic evidence collected. The nurse will support whatever decision you make. You do not have to report to police. You do not have to press criminal charges. However, if you should change your mind in the future about reporting the assault and proceeding with criminal charges, having the legal evidence and documentation taken at the time of the incident is crucial.*This service is free.

Sources: Fraser Health, Vancouver Coastal Health, Sex Workers Outreach Project

How SWAN Supports Women

SWAN has assisted women who have been sexually assaulted at their workplace. In the past, women have called SWAN at 604-719-6343 shortly after an assault to receive immediate assistance. SWAN supports women who have been sexually assaulted but who do not want to have the police or hospital staff involved. Instead, SWAN has arranged for an appointment with an outreach nurse at a private location where the woman can be offered health services and information. SWAN outreach workers then continue to provide 1-1 ongoing support to the woman. SWAN never forces any type of service or assistance on anyone.



How to Access the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

Vancouver

Go directly to the Vancouver General Hospital Emergency Department at 920 West 10th Avenue (near Broadway and Oak). You can bring someone with you. Ask for the Sexual Assault Service whose nurses are on-call 24 hours a day. You can ask for an interpreter.

For more information, go to www.vch.ca/403/7676/?program_id=11289 or call 604-875-2881

Richmond & Burnaby

Hospitals in Richmond and Burnaby do not offer the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Service but will be able to provide health care. However, if you want to see a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, the hospital can transfer you to the nearest hospital that provides this service.



SWAN outreach provides **FREE condoms and lube.** We have a variety of lubricated (flavored and non-flavored) and non-lubricated condoms. Ask the SWAN outreach team or call 604 719 6343 or email info@swanvancouver.ca



“Rapid” HIV Tests

In British Columbia, free HIV tests are available. Results are available in minutes. Contact SWAN to arrange a test with one of our community health partners.

To learn more about rapid HIV testing, go to www.bccdc.ca/SexualHealth/Programs/ProvincialPointofCare/HIVTestingProgram/default.htm



CONDOM NEGOTIATION STRATEGIES

Sometimes clients may ask or insist on not using a condom. This can be a tricky situation to negotiate. Insist on condoms before any action happens. Put the condom on the client once he has an erection without discussion or comment.

However if you have to persuade the client to use a condom, here are some strategies that have worked for other women.

- *Explain that it is for both your protection and the client`s
- *Say that you are really concerned about pregnancy (your real concern may be something else)
- *Say that it makes it easier for you to relax and work and that you will feel anxious or frigid instead of sexually aroused or excited during sex if a condom is not used
- *Use emotional coercion and make a pitiful face if the client doesn't want to use a condom
- *Make the client believe that he will feel sorry for you if a condom is not used
- *Make up a reason you feel comfortable with even though your real reason is to protect yourself

Sometimes clients give reasons why they cannot use a condom. Here are some solutions.

- *Reason: Client claims latex allergy. Solution: Use a polyurethane condom.
- *Reason: Client claims he is unable to enjoy sex with a condom . Solution: “Sell” the positives of condom use (e.g. longer lasting encounter, introduce the unique design of a condom (e.g. dots, ribs) which will bring about rewarding sensations) or use a female condom (ask SWAN outreach for female condoms)

If the client persists, tell him

- *I'll give you six good reasons: Hepatitis, gonorrhea, Chlamydia, warts, syphilis and HIV. Now can you give me six good reasons why we shouldn't use a condom?
 - *I'm sorry. I don't negotiate on this matter.
 - *I'll just leave, shall I? Make it clear that you will not have sex if condoms are not used.
- Other tips include:
- *Use and make sure you always have your own condoms
 - *Make condom use more enjoyable by using “fun” condoms (e.g. studded, coloured, or flavoured)

Sources: Shift; Bui, Markham,Tran, Palmer Beasley & Ross (2012).

SEXUAL HEALTH Questions & Answers

**Sexually Transmitted Infections (STD):
What are the symptoms?**

- *Unusual discharge from the vagina
- *Burning sensation when urinating
- *Pain in the genitals or lower abdomen
- *Itching, sores or bumps in the genital area
- *Unusual bleeding or bleeding after intercourse
- *A bad smell

Many people who have a STI don't have any symptoms at all. The only way to know for sure if you have a STI is to be tested.

To learn more about symptoms of all the different STIs, go to http://www.cfsh.ca/Your_Sexual_Health/STIs-and-HIV/

Source: Canadian Federation for Sexual Health

HIV: How is HIV transmitted?

Only 5 body fluids can contain enough HIV to infect someone: blood, semen (including pre-cum), rectal fluid, vaginal fluid and breast milk. HIV can only get passed when one of these fluids from a person with HIV gets into the bloodstream of another person—through broken skin, the opening of the penis or the wet linings of the body, such as the vagina, rectum or foreskin. HIV cannot pass through healthy, unbroken skin.

The two main ways that HIV can get passed between you and someone else are: *through unprotected sex or *by sharing needles or other equipment to inject drugs. HIV can also be passed *by sharing needles or ink to get a tattoo *by sharing needles or jewellery to get a body piercing *by sharing acupuncture needles *to a fetus or baby during pregnancy, birth or breast-feeding.

Source: CATIE

FACEBOOK

SWAN has a new Facebook page!
"Like Us" at

www.facebook.com/SwanVancouver

Next issue: Fall 2013. Did we miss something? SWAN would like to hear from you! If there is something you would like to see included in the next issue please let us know!



**SPOTLIGHT ON
COMMUNITY PARTNER**

QUEST Food Exchange

Quest operates three not-for-profit grocery markets that offer healthy food at a fraction of the cost you pay in supermarkets. If you are interested in saving money on your monthly grocery bill, contact SWAN at 604 719 6343 and we can refer you as these markets are not open to the general public. Locations:
Vancouver - 2020 Dundas & 611 East Hastings and Surrey - 13890 104 Avenue.

Quest also offers a number of volunteer opportunities for those who want to give back to their communities, to learn new skills for re-entering the job market, or to gain experience and confidence after a period of absence from employment.

Quest provides in-store vouchers in exchange for volunteer hours. For more information, go to www.questoutreach.org or call Quest at 604-682-3494



**SWANzine funding
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**The City of Vancouver
THANK YOU!**

HEALTH CLINICS

VANCOUVER

Women's Health Collective 29 West Hastings Street 604-736-5262/
www.womenshealthcollective.ca

All ages. Women only. Trans women welcome.

The nurse practitioner offers: *Check-ups *Diagnosis and prescriptions *Specialist referrals
*Birth control *Pap tests * STI testing *HIV testing (results in minutes)

Hours: Monday - Thursday 1:30pm - 4:30pm/Fridays 10am - 1pm Free services.

No ID or health card required. Will not share results with family doctor if requested.

Free yoga and art therapy classes. Resource center.

BCCDC Clinic 655 West 12th Avenue 604-707-5600

All ages. Offers: *STI & HIV Testing *Birth Control *Hepatitis B Vaccine
Free and Confidential. No MSP required.

For hours and other BCCDC clinics in Vancouver & the Lower Mainland, go to
www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/az/_s/SexuallyTransmittedInfections/clinprog/default.htm

Three Bridges Community Health Centre 1292 Hornby Street 604-736-9844

All ages. Offers a wide range of health services including Transgender Health Program.

Hours: Mon - Fri 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m./Primary Care Hours: Mon - Fri 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Youth Clinic Drop-in Hours: Mon - Fri, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m./Sat, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

BURNABY

Options for Sexual Health Clinic 4734 Imperial Street 604-731-4252/
www.optionsforsexualhealth.org/providers/opt-metrotown-formerly-new-westminster

All ages. Offers: *Birth control *Pregnancy testing and options * STI & HIV testing
Hours: Wednesdays 7pm-9pm

Youth Clinic 4734 Imperial Street 604- 293-1764/_

www.fraserhealth.ca/find_us/services/?program_id=998

21 and under. Offers: *STI testing, treatment and counseling *HIV counseling, testing and referral
*Pregnancy testing *Emergency contraception.

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

RICHMOND

Youth Clinic

8100 Granville Avenue 604-233-3204

21 and under. Offers: * STI & HIV testing *Birth control

Hours: Mondays 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. /Wednesdays 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m/ Fridays 1 p.m. - 4p.m.



Supporting Women's Alternatives Network (SWAN)

outreach phone: 604-719-6343

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