



Spring 2018

SWAN Vancouver



# SWANzine

## Beauty Night

On February 19, 2018, LUSH Cosmetics came to SWAN for Beauty Night. LUSH provided skin care consultations, massage and product demonstrations including bath bombs, bubble bars, lotion, and massage bars. Everyone had a relaxing night of pampering and trying out new products. Women enjoyed soothing arm massages and refreshing facials. Thank you Lush for coming and sharing your products with us!

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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.



LUSH Cosmetics is the funder for our Photovoice project ( see page 4).

## SWAN VANCOUVER SOCIETY

Phone: (604)719-6343 (English) | (778)865-6343 (Cantonese, Mandarin)

Email: [info@swanvancouver.ca](mailto:info@swanvancouver.ca) | Website: [www.swanvancouver.ca](http://www.swanvancouver.ca) | Wechat: SWANnetreach

Address: Ground floor -1101 Seymour Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 0R1 BN: 85317 6295 RP001

## The BC Victims of Crime Act

The BC Victims of Crime Act sets out the rights of victims. It gives victims the right to be treated fairly and with respect by all workers in the criminal justice system and the right to receive information about:

- Victim services available to you
- Benefits
- Financial assistance for criminal injury
- How the criminal justice system works
- Your rights to privacy
- Status of police investigations for your case
- Court dates and what happens at court
- Accused or offender while they are in the community and in custody

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/bcs-criminal-justice-system/if-you-are-a-victim-of-a-crime/your-rights>



## Requesting an Update on Your Case from the Vancouver Police Department

Police investigations often take a long time and you may not hear from police for weeks or months. If you have your file number, you can ask for an update.

1. Call VPD non-emergency hotline (604-717-3321). Tell the operator your file number and ask for the name of the officer in charge of the case and their badge number.
2. Call the City of Vancouver at 311 or 604-873-7000 and ask to leave a message for the officer by providing the officer's name and his/her badge number. Leave a message asking for an update on your case. Remember to leave your phone number so the officer can call you back.

It is good practice to always ask for a file number and the police officer's business card when interacting with police either as a victim or a witness. You never know when you will need that information.

## Requesting an update from the RCMP

You need to have the name of the officer of your case. You can forward your message to them via their Contact Us page at <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cont/comment-eng.htm> . The online form is only available in English and French. SWAN can translate what you want to write into English.

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# Abuser alert

## Mid-month delivery

If you missed us during our monthly drop-off, we can deliver mid-month supplies in Vancouver and Burnaby on Wednesdays.

Unfortunately, we do not have resources to deliver mid-month in Surrey, Richmond, Tri-Cities and Abbotsford.



Alternately you are welcome to come to our office Mondays-Fridays 9am-5pm to pick up supplies.

If you are not on our monthly outreach route, but would like to be added, or if you would like to stop by our office and need our address, please call or text us at 778-865-6343.

## Women should be able to work safely

Please consider signing up for SWAN’s Abuser Alert. The Abuser Alert is a system that collects and shares information about bad clients who don’t pay, commit crimes, and/or perpetuate other forms of violence. You can also report problematic authority figures such as municipal bylaws officers, police officers or Canada Border Services agents.

Only women who have signed up for the alerts will receive the information as we do not want the information going out to the general public. To sign up, please text “alert” to 778-865-6343 or email [info@swanvancouver.ca](mailto:info@swanvancouver.ca) and write “alert” in the subject line.

## Staying Safe

In the past year, there has been a lot of robberies and reports from women about visits from authorities. We are interested in hearing how you keep yourself safe. If you have strategies or ways to screen clients in order to protect yourself, please send them to us at 778-865-6343 or to our WeChat:SWANnetreach



SWAN is compiling a list of strategies that can help women to work safely. This list is especially useful for women newer to the business. We will distribute these tips during outreach.

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## New Staff – Jessi

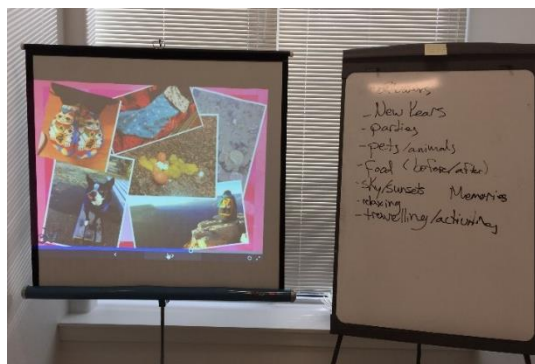


Please welcome Jessi to the SWAN team. Jessi is our new Research & Programs Manager. Jessi is working on our Photovoice project, a HIV project, fundraising and advocacy. She joined SWAN in January. Jessi loves her pink mohawk and her cat Diesel. Jessi loves travelling, cooking, reading, and trying new food. Jessi spent the winter learning to snowboard.

## Photovoice Update

The Photovoice project is underway. The project's goal is to address misinformation and stigma about women who work in massage shops and apartments. Participants have already been sending us the photos they took in their leisure time and the amazing stories behind the photos.

We held our first workshop on January 16. After the initial meeting, we have now moved on to improving participants' photography skills. Participants were also treated with a LUSH goodie bag that consisted of shower gel, massage bar, bubble bar and body scrub.



### Health Clinics

#### **VANCOUVER**

#### **Women's Health Collective**

29 West Hastings  
604-736-5262

All ages. Women only.

\*Check-ups \*Diagnosis and prescriptions \*Specialist referrals \*Birth control \*Pap tests \*STI & HIV testing.

Mon 9:30am-4:30pm

Tues-Thurs 1:00pm-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.

Mon-Fri 11am -6:30pm

All ages. Offers: \*STI & HIV testing \*Birth control \*Hepatitis B vaccine. Free and confidential. No MSP required.

#### **BURNABY**

#### **Options for Sexual Health Clinic**

4734 Imperial 604-731-4252

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

#### **SURREY**

#### **Surrey North Community Health Centre**

10697 135A St. 604-583-5666

Drop-in (Call SWAN for appointment)

For clinics in other municipalities, check SWAN's Health Page on our website. Click "Resources" and select the health section from the drop down menu options.

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