



Fall 2018

SWAN Vancouver



SWANzine

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Welcome Erica to SWAN



SWAN would like to welcome Erica, a UBC law student who will be working on some special legal projects for us. Over the next few months, Erica will be using her knowledge about the law to help us create a legal package for migrant sex workers. This package will include information about immigration and criminal laws that impact your work; enforcement of these laws by police and Canada Border Services; and your rights. This information will be available in English and Chinese mid-2019. Do you have questions about legal issues? Please let us know and we can add them to the project if we do not have that information already.

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 VANCOUVER SOCIETY

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

Email: info@swanvancouver.ca | Website: www.swanvancouver.ca | Wechat: SWANnetreach

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

Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) and immigration detention



Who is CBSA?

- CBSA officers are federal immigration enforcement officers, not municipal, provincial or federal police officers.
- CBSA enforces immigration laws. They are responsible for dealing with immigration violations, immigration detention and deportation.
- CBSA officers have very broad powers and discretion.

CBSA officers are allowed to ask an individual to provide identification (ID) if:

- They suspect the person committed an immigration offence (e.g., breaking an immigration law or condition such as working in Canada without a work permit or working in Canada while on a visitor's visa); or
- They suspect the person does not have legal immigration status.

In practice, any ID that provides information about a person's immigration status may lead to the officer finding grounds to detain them.

CBSA officers can DETAIN someone if they have reason to believe one of the following:

- The CBSA officer cannot confirm the person's identity;
- The person does not have legal immigration status;
- The person committed an immigration offence (e.g., breaking an immigration law or condition);
- There is a warrant issued in their name, related to a deportation order.

If you or someone you know is arrested by CBSA

- They may be released after arrest, on terms and conditions; or
- They may be detained in custody until their "detention review hearing" before the Immigration Division (a tribunal/informal court), if the CBSA decides that:
- The person is a danger to the public (e.g., they have a criminal record);
- The person is a flight risk (e.g., they will not show up for their immigration hearing or for removal);
- The CBSA officer can't confirm the person's identity.

If you or someone you know is detained by CBSA

- A lawyer will be assigned to you in detention
- If the officer does not release you, your detention will be reviewed within 48 hours or soon after by a tribunal called the Immigration Division (ID)
 - If you are not released at this hearing, there will be another hearing in 7 days, and then every 30 days after that. These hearings are called Detention Reviews (DRs).

Tip

- Memorize SWAN's phone number and a friend's phone number in case you are detained. Your cell phone and contact list will be taken from you if you are detained so you will not have access to your contact list.

Immigration arrests, detention and deportation remain a significant issue for the women we serve. SWAN is currently working with a team of lawyers to strategize how to address immigration enforcement and the laws. If you are interested in helping us with our legal efforts to change the laws and/or enforcement practices, please give us a call.

Source: Butterfly Toronto "Immigration Law and Migrant Sex Workers' Rights"

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/5bd754_8e7745fba2e9469aa6dec0acce9f3a51.pdf

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Annual General Meeting

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.

Recently we held our annual general meeting, we would like to report back to you.

SWAN staff and volunteers do outreach to **7** different municipalities in the lower mainland. If you want us to put you on our outreach route, please call, text or email us!



SWAN gave out **288 000** condoms last year! This is an increase from **95 300** in the past year. Please do not hesitate to call us for condoms. We want to support you to work safety.

We received **14** Abuser Alert reports from women. Our Abuser Alert is a confidential text messaging system that allows women to report about bad things that happened at work such as non-payment, abusive client, etc. With your consent, the information is provided to other sex workers to help keep everyone safer. We know that many women already have networks for sharing work information. We aim to complement these networks and provide a platform for those that might not have access to these networks.

If you wish to receive information about abusers, please call or text "alert" to 604 719 6343 (English) or 778 865 6343 (Cantonese & Mandarin) or email info@swanvancouver.ca

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Through funding provided by the Public Health Agency of Canada, SWAN is working with three other local sex work support organizations to serve sex workers' health needs and prevent the transmission of sexually transmitted infections. There will be a number of ways we increase our capacity to serve you better over the next few years. This month, our volunteers and staff are receiving training about HIV prevention strategies.



Photovoice Update

For the conclusion of our photovoice project, we are very excited to announce that we will be hosting an exhibition for the month of January to showcase the hard work and amazing photos of our photographers. This project, provided im/migrant sex workers an opportunity to self-represent their lived experiences and bring forth a dimension, reality and perspective which policy makers and law enforcement have neglected and dismissed. We hope this project will start conversations that shift public understanding and perceptions about the lives of migrant sex workers. The exhibition is titled: "Chocolate or Chicken Bones?" and will be located in Chinatown at the SUM Gallery (268 Keefer Street – Suite 425, Vancouver) will be open for free to the public from 12-6. We will also be hosting an opening in early January. Details to be announced.

This project was funded through a generous grant from LUSH Cosmetics.



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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