



SWAN Vancouver Society

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SUMMER 2019



SWANzine

News, Community & Information
for Im/Migrant Women Working in Metro-Vancouver

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WHAT IS SWANzine? SWAN Society's quarterly newsletter and guide covering health, social, legal, employment and community information that is meaningful to the women SWAN serves.

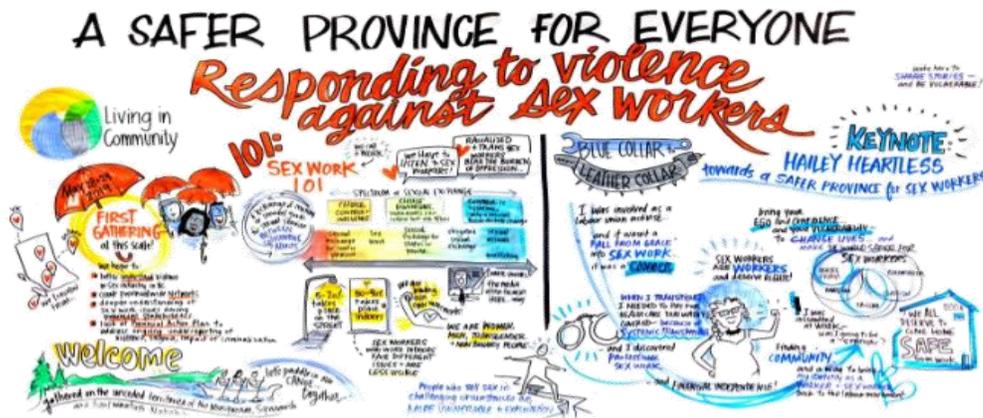
SWANzine is available in English & Chinese.



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MAKING HISTORY The **Safer Province for Everyone Conference** was held in Vancouver from May 28 – 29, and brought together sex workers, sex worker organizations, Indigenous organizations, police, government, health authorities, legal organizations, and other diverse stakeholders from throughout BC.

Speakers included activists and leaders from the sex working, non-profit, academic, city and government communities. Discussions centered around best practices in responding to violence against all sex workers, including rural, trans*/2-spirit, male, im/migrant and Indigenous sex workers.



The conference was sponsored by



in partnership with:

- WISH Drop-In Centre Society
- Health Initiative for Men
- SWAN Vancouver
- Peers Victoria
- Van. Aboriginal Community Policing Ctr.
- PACE Society
- The Metro Vancouver Consortium
- Sex Workers United Against Violence
- End Violence Association of BC



“People think we are like chocolate. That we are sweet and you can just swallow us and consume us. We are not chocolate. You can’t just swallow us and forget about us. We are like chicken bones. We will stick in your throat.”

SWAN’s **“Chocolate or Chicken Bones?”** photo exhibit was displayed at the conference. Created in 2018 by SWAN members, the photovoice project aimed to dispel myths and stereotypes about their lives. The exhibit was first shown publicly in Chinatown’s Sum Gallery in January 2019.



WORKER SOLIDARITY The 7th annual **Red Umbrella March** took place on June 8 in Vancouver, and SWAN was there. This year marked the 35th anniversary of Canada’s first modern-day sex worker protests, which began happening in the ‘80’s.

Dressed in 80’s-inspired outfits and costumes, workers and allies convened at the West End Sex Workers’ memorial before re-enacting Vancouver’s historic first march down Davie Street. The march ended at the Pacific Cinematheque theatre, where many stayed to enjoy a screening of the classic feminist film *Working Girls* by Lizzie Borden.

The Red Umbrella March is hosted and organized by the Triple-X Workers’ Solidarity Association of British Columbia.





We're online -
connection
strengthens
our community!

Find us &
connect:



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STRENGTHENING LABOUR RIGHTS – A GLOBAL INITIATIVE

In April 2019, SWAN's Executive Director attended the **Global Consultation on Prevention of Human Trafficking and Unsafe Migration**.

SWAN shared evidence from its 15 years of work in Canada showing that it is current laws, police, and immigration enforcement that create unsafe working conditions for im/migrant women, and not international migration processes. The meeting was sponsored and organized by the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW).



GENDER EQUALITY In May, SWAN was one of fourteen women's organizations in BC to be awarded a substantial multi-year Capacity-Building grant by the **Department of Women and Gender Equality** (formerly Status of Women Canada).

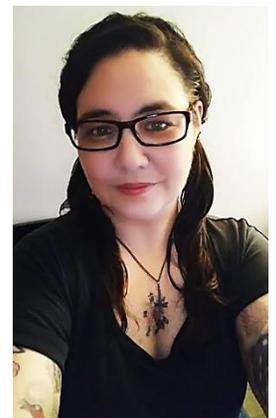


SWAN's bid for the funding was accepted because the federal government recognizes that gender inequality in Canada can't be addressed without including im/migrant women engaged in sex work. SWAN will use the funds to increase operational capacity while supporting full inclusion and participation in society for the working im/migrant women it serves.

SWAN's Outreach Coordinator Kelly Go attended the formal announcement event on May 28 and accepted the grant from Maryam Monsef, the Minister for Women and Gender Equality.

NEW STAFF SWAN welcomes Andi, who joins the team in our new Development Manager role. Andi brings 15 years of experience in front-line service and care, administrative and high-level management, and advancing social missions and organizational growth for grassroots non-profits.

Andi is a long-time advocate and activist for safety, equality, inclusion and human rights for all self-identified women and sex workers. Andi will be working with the Executive Director and Board to develop and implement long-term strategies and capacity building initiatives for SWAN Vancouver Society.



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RECOMMENDED HEALTH CLINICS

We recommend and refer women only to these two health clinics because of their accessibility and the non-judgemental service and care they provide:

VANCOUVER

Women's Health Collective
29 West Hastings

SURREY

North Community Health Centre
10697 135A Street

We have an arrangement with both of these health clinics, so call SWAN to book an appointment.

If you require a specialist, OB, or ultrasound, you'll still need to go in person to one of the clinics to get your referral. SWAN staff can accompany you to appointments, and can provide transportation and translation if necessary.



YOUR HEALTH MATTERS SWAN has created a new pamphlet with information and strategies for how to communicate and negotiate safer sex practices.

This pamphlet will be distributed during SWAN's outreach activities. You can also contact us any time to request copies.



MID-MONTH DELIVERIES With the help of our dedicated volunteers, SWAN is now able to make mid-month supplies deliveries in Vancouver and Burnaby on Wednesdays.

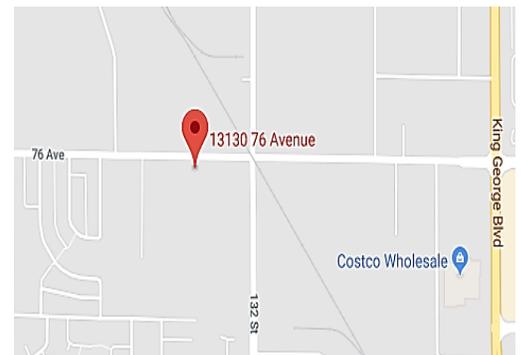
In the meantime, anyone is welcome to contact us to arrange a pick up at our office during business hours (Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm).

If you would like to be added to our monthly outreach route please call or text us at 778-865-6343.

It's our goal to be able to extend our mid-month deliveries to Surrey, Richmond, Abbotsford and the Tri-Cities in future.

ADVOCATING TO SERVE In June, SWAN's Executive Director attended the Canadian Council for Refugees Spring Consultation Conference in Victoria, BC. At the conference, the Canada Border Services Agency announced that a new Immigration Holding Centre is scheduled to open in Surrey in July 2019.

SWAN is currently advocating to secure access to detainees at the new centre, in order to extend our outreach to any women who may benefit from or require SWAN's services or outreach support while detained there.



VOLUNTEER AT SWAN!

Since 2002, SWAN has provided culturally-specialized service and supports to working im/migrant women throughout Metro Vancouver, and advocating for their safety and employment rights.

There are *always* opportunities to get involved – publicly or anonymously – to support our work and the communities of women we serve.

Call or email if you're interested! 778-865-6343 / netreach@swanvancouver.ca

