



# Conference Report: Safety and the Sex Trade

Elizabeth Kwan, Consultant  
2014



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## **Executive Summary**

The Crime Prevention Ottawa Conference on Safety and the Sex Trade was held on June 13, 2014 at Ottawa City Hall. This conference brought together 140 community partners and stakeholders including service providers, the Ottawa Police Service, neighbourhood residents and sex workers.

The *Safety and the Sex Trade Conference* took place shortly after the Government of Canada brought in new legislation, Bill C-36 the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act. The new Bill, the Government's response to the Supreme Court ruling that struck down the previous prostitution laws in late 2013, criminalizes the purchase of sex and introduces new limitations to the sale of sex.

The *Safety and the Sex Trade Conference* brought together diverse community partners and stakeholders to work more collectively toward creating safety for the whole community and especially, for sex workers.

At the conference, community partners and stakeholders made 43 recommendations on ways to better promote safety in the changing legal context around the sex trade. At the end of the conference, all the recommendations were prioritized by participants.

Conference participants recommended two (2) approaches that must be incorporated into any future actions - the inclusion of sex workers, and the constant improvement of the relationship and trust between sex workers and community partners, including service providers, residents and the Police.

The remaining forty-one (41) recommendations for actions were prioritized and grouped into priority areas. The top priority areas resulting from the conference, starting from the area that received the most support, were:

Safe, affordable housing and safe houses (52 votes)

Specialized police unit (51 votes)

Anti-stigma awareness (29 votes)

Policy and advocacy with regards to Bill-C36 (28 votes)

Crime Prevention Ottawa plans to work with community partners to focus on the top two (2) priority areas of safe, affordable housing and safe houses, and developing a specialized police unit to create greater safety for neighbourhoods and for sex workers. In terms of the anti-stigma awareness and the policy and advocacy with regards to Bill-C36, Crime Prevention Ottawa will refer these priority areas to other more appropriate community partners for action.

## Introduction

The Conference on Safety and the Sex Trade held on June 13, 2014 at Ottawa City Hall brought together 140 participants from the community including individuals, groups and organizations interested in promoting safety in the sex trade.

The goal of the Safety and the Sex Trade Conference was to gather recommendations to strengthen the work by community partners, residents and stakeholders to promote safety in the changing legal context around the sex trade.

This conference informed participants about the implications of the changing legal context, along with its potential impact. Participants then learned of some promising practices in Ottawa from four organizations concerned with safety and the sex trade.

Following the Keynote Speaker and Panelists, participants had the opportunity to work in breakout sessions in the morning and again in the afternoon with the focus on either violence against women, youth or neighbourhoods. In these breakout sessions, participants discussed the issues, identified current community services and made recommendations for collaborative community actions. All recommendations from the workshops were presented to the plenary at the end of the conference and participants were engaged in a “dot-mocracy” exercise using dot-stickers to prioritize the recommendations. (see Appendix A: Conference on Safety and the Sex Trade Agenda)

It was widely acknowledged at the conference that individuals who work in the sex trade are mostly women and some are engaged in the work by choice, while others are coerced into sex work or trafficked for sex. Without meaningful choice of their work, the latter are forced into sex work such as trafficked individuals or those coerced into sex work by abusive and/or criminal elements such as pimps, gangs and drug dealers. Overall, the primary concern of the conference participants was the safety of sex workers and the violence they experience and the safety of residents of neighbourhoods.

## Opening Plenary – Keynote Speaker and Panelists

Councillor Shad Qadri, Crime Prevention Ottawa (CPO) Chair, convened the conference, welcoming participants and community partners to the event.

### **Keynote Speaker: Michelle Mann-Rempel**

The keynote speaker, Michelle Mann-Rempel, a lawyer who specializes in Aboriginal **criminal justice**, started the day with an overview of the changing legal environment for sex work.

On December 20, 2013, the Supreme Court of Canada, in a unanimous decision, struck down three provisions under the Criminal Code: s. 210, s. 212(1)(j) and s. 213(1)(c). The Supreme Court found that these three provisions, intended to prevent public nuisance in communities and the exploitation of sex workers, violated the rights of sex workers under s. 7 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the right to security of the person.

In its decision, the Supreme Court considered the *Criminal Code* provisions and their implications:

- Prostitution itself is not illegal, but activities around it, especially measures taken by sex workers to protect themselves from harm, are illegal.
- Section 210 - keeping or being in a “bawdy house” prevents sex workers from being able to take in-calls rather than more risky street-level sex work.
- Section 212(1)(j) - “living on the avails” of prostitution criminalizes the individual living off the avails which impacts the safety and security of sex workers, but does not criminalize the sex worker.
- Section 213(1)(c). - communicating in public criminalizes sex workers’ screening potential clients publicly.

In the *R. v. Bedford* (2013 SCC 72) decision, the Supreme Court suspended the declaration of invalidity of these three provisions for one year in which Parliament could choose to produce new legislation. In response to the *Bedford* decision, on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 the federal government introduced Bill C-36, the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act. Bill C-36 prohibits the purchase of sexual services,

profiting from the prostitution of others, advertising the sale of sexual services (except one's own services), communicating in public for the purpose of selling sexual services where children could reasonably be expected to be present. Additionally, \$20 million is proposed to support community organizations and programs for the most vulnerable sex workers to help them to exit from sex work.

The keynote speaker presented examples of where ambiguity in the wording of the new legislation may compromise the safety of sex workers. (see Appendix C: Safety and the Sex Trade: A Changing Legal Environment)

It was suggested in the presentation that the new Bill-C36 is problematic with regards to sex workers' safety in light of the *Bedford* decision and s. 7 of the *Charter of Rights of Freedoms*, which could be grounds for another constitutional challenge in the future.

### **Panelists**

Four panelists from community organizations presented and showcased their promising service models that help to increase safety for sex workers and the community. The panelists were:

1. Vicky Chief , Sex Trade Out Reach Mobile (STORM), Minwaashin Lodge  
<http://minlodge.com/index.cfm?PageName=STORM%20->
2. Mia Maillet, Youth Services Bureau  
<http://www.ottawaboothcentre.org/programs/correctional-justices-services/>
3. Cheryl Parrott, Neighbourhood Connection, John School  
<http://www.ottawaboothcentre.org/programs/correctional-justices-services/>
4. Frederique Chabot, Prostitutes of Ottawa-Gatineau Work Educate and Resist (POWER)  
<http://www.ottawaboothcentre.org/programs/correctional-justices-services/>

The panelists commented that:

- Bill C-36 is worrisome, especially regarding the safety of street-level sex trade workers and women engaged in survival sex.
- Street-based sex workers represent between 5% and 20% of all sex workers in Canada.
- Bill C-36 criminalizes some aspects of prostitution that were not illegal previously.
- For youth who are sex trade workers or at risk, the issue is building a trust relationship with adults, without fear of repercussions. Often these youth have a history of sexual, physical, and emotional abuse and a continuum of care model is effective.
- Strategies focusing on criminalizing clients rather than sex workers can improve relations between police and sex trade workers; however, sex trade workers' source of income is compromised.
- There is an ongoing tension between neighbourhood residents and street sex workers. Hintonburg, for example, experienced street-level prostitution and associated drug issues for 20 years.

## **Conference Breakout Sessions**

A total of five breakout sessions (four in English, one in French) took place in the morning. Another four breakout sessions (focusing on violence against women – two groups, youth, and neighbourhoods) took place in the afternoon.

In the breakout sessions, participants identified the issues affecting safety and the sex trade and the consequences as shown summarized below.

Issues	Consequences
<p>Relationship between sex trade workers and police: sex trade workers uncomfortable reporting to police; feeling stigmatized; not all police understand the realities and needs of sex trade workers.</p>	<p>Isolation of sex trade workers who will look for more secluded (potentially unsafe) places to work.</p> <p>Sex workers do not report violence to police.</p> <p>Survival sex work moves indoors in order to hide from high traffic areas or detection from the police. This could mean moving indoors to the sex worker's home or the client's place, creating more unsafe and high risk situations for sex workers.</p>
<p>Access to support services (e.g. operating only during business hours; services only available in downtown core; survival sex workers are especially stigmatized; rules in shelters especially regarding drug use).</p>	<p>Sex trade workers are unaware of services available to them or can't access them.</p>
<p>Stigmatization and isolation of sex workers among themselves (e.g. indoor vs. outdoor sex trade workers; street-level sex trade workers and survival sex workers, etc.).</p>	<p>Sex trade workers are unable to share information about safety (e.g. bad dates), services and programs, safe spaces, lobbying/solidarity.</p>
<p>Community safety issues surrounding sex work, e.g. drug dealing, aggressive johns, safety of children, "us versus them" attitude between sex workers and residents.</p>	<p>Ongoing tensions between residents and sex trade workers.</p> <p>Sex trade is displaced from neighbourhood to neighbourhood.</p>



Issues	Consequences
Health issues affecting sex trade workers, especially street-level workers, such as addictions/drug use, consequences of physical and sexual assault, mental health concerns.	Sex workers do not or cannot access services or feel shame or stigmatization about using them.
Recruitment of youth into sex work – young people lured into sex work at school age; youth provided with drugs and forced into sex work; youth believe they are making a choice to do sex work rather than believing they are victims of a crime.	Youth are more vulnerable to being coerced into the sex trade.  Youth do not seek programs or services since they do not consider themselves “victims”.
Linkages with poverty, homelessness, mental health challenges, addictions and sex work: poverty drives some women and youth into sex work; homelessness, mental health challenges and addictions as a risk factors for entering sex work.	Approaches to safety of sex trade workers need to take into account these related issues.
Lack of a long-term solution for youth who are in sex work or are at risk.	Youth “age out” of support programs once they turn 18.  Lack of prevention of young people at risk of being recruited into the sex trade.
There is a need to better understand the distinctions of different types of sex workers and sex work. Individuals working in the sex trade are those who choose to and consent to sex work, and those who are forced into sex work and without consent such as trafficked individuals or those coerced by abusive and or criminal elements such as pimps, gangs and drug dealers.	Different safety issues for different types of sex work: for example, outdoor sex workers are more vulnerable to new or unknown clients, while indoor sex workers might be victims of human trafficking and economically exploited.

Issues	Consequences
Impact of Bill C-36 is unclear at this time.	Need to create fora to discuss and assess Bill C-36.

## Recommendations

After both the morning and afternoon breakout sessions, participants made 43 recommendations. As participants were working in different breakout sessions at the conference, some of the recommendations have overlapping nuances.

At the end of the conference, all the recommendations were presented to the plenary, and participants used a “dot-mocracy” exercise to vote for the recommendations that they felt were priorities. Each participant was given 3 dot-stickers to cast their votes for their priorities. However, it should be noted that not every recommendation forwarded at the conference received a vote.

In this report, individual recommendations are grouped under: **Recommendations for approach**; and, **Recommendations for action**. (see Appendix B: All Conference Recommendations Grouped into Categories) Recommendations for approach refer to good process practices put forward by the conference participants, while recommendations for actions include possible initiatives that community partners could consider after the conference.

### **Recommendations for Approach**

The recommendations for approach were overarching processes that were good practices that conference participants felt were important to incorporate in all future actions by community partners on safety and the sex trade. The recommendations for approach were:

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROACH</b>	<b># dots</b>
Sex workers have a voice	19
Improving relationships and trust	10

Conference participants were clear that in order to be effective in any future actions by community partners, the approach has to engage and be inclusive of sex workers. There was also acknowledgement that relationships and level of trust must improve between sex workers and community partners, including service providers, residents and police.

**Recommendations for Actions**

From the recommendations for action, there were eight priority areas that emerged from the conference, these were:

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION</b>	<b># DOTS</b>
Safe, affordable housing and safe houses	52
Specialized police unit	51
Anti-stigma awareness	29
Policy and advocacy with regards to Bill-C36	28
More drop-ins for sex workers with longer hours	12
Resources for sex workers, service providers and community	9
Prevention and education	6
Youth specific (communication and prevention from entering sex trade)	5

The eight priority areas lend themselves to potential action projects that community partners could collaborate on in the future.

Safe, affordable housing and safe houses for sex workers was selected as the top priority by conference participants. For this priority, conference participants suggested integrating good practices from various models including Housing First, harm reduction and Brigid's Place.

A very close second was the priority of establishing a Specialized Police Unit similar to the Ottawa Police Service Mental Health Mobile Unit (MHU) model. This specialized Police Unit would have trained police officers specifically assigned to respond to calls from sex workers related to their lack of safety, including violence and abuse.

Drop-ins were discussed as a separate priority by participants. Drop-ins were not included under safe, affordable housing and safe houses in this report as these were considered community hubs or spaces to build relationships with sex workers, to provide resources and connections to services.

Anti-stigma awareness was the third priority with the largest number of recommendations arising from the conference. Overall, the recommended anti-stigma awareness work would be Ottawa-wide reaching numerous groups including community residents, youth, service providers and sex workers.

Policy and advocacy came in as the fourth priority but it falls outside of Crime Prevention Ottawa's (CPO) mandate that focusses on community-based crime prevention action initiatives. However, after the conference, CPO assisted a policy and advocacy initiative regarding Bill-C36 spearheaded by OCTEVAW (Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women) and ORCC (Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre).

## **Conclusion**

At the conference, there was a coming together of diverse community partners and stakeholders to work more collectively toward creating safety for the whole community and especially, for sex workers. There was rich, thoughtful and constructive dialogue and discussion among conference participants who represented a range of perspectives and approaches. Many of the conference participants were service providers with a much smaller number of residents and even fewer sex workers. In light of the mix of participants, much effort was made to ensure that all voices were heard. However, more needs to be done to reach out and include residents and sex workers in future community initiatives on safety and the sex trade.

Conference participants forwarded two process-based priorities under Recommendations for approach to consider. These were:

- to ensure that sex workers have a voice, through engagement and inclusion, in future actions by community partners on safety and the sex trade.
- to improve relationships and build more trust between sex workers and community partners and stakeholders.

The remaining forty-one (41) recommendations made by conference participants were for community actions. The four (4) top priorities were:

- Safe, Affordable Housing and Safe Housing (52 dots)
- Specialized Police Unit (51 dots)
- Anti-stigma awareness (29 dots)
- Policy and advocacy with regards to Bill C-36 (28 dots).

The top priority Recommendations for actions provide clear direction and focus for the types of collective actions and collaborations that community partners can undertake to improve safety for sex workers, residents and the community.

In terms of next steps, Crime Prevention Ottawa plans to work with community partners to focus on the top two (2) priority areas of safe, affordable housing and safe houses, and developing a specialized police unit to create greater safety for neighbourhoods and for sex workers.

Policy and Advocacy with Regards to Bill-C36, the fourth priority recommendation for action is not within Crime Prevention Ottawa's (CPO) mandate, CPO provided assistance to facilitate an initiative by their community partners, OCTEVAW (Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women) and ORCC (Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre), regarding Bill C-36.

With regards to the anti-stigma awareness and the policy and advocacy with regards to Bill-C36, Crime Prevention Ottawa will refer these priority areas to other more appropriate community partners for action.

## Appendix A:

### Conference on Safety and the Sex Trade Friday, June 13, 2014- 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. 110 Laurier Avenue West

## AGENDA

### Rooms

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	<b>Registration, coffee &amp; muffins, Networking</b>	Jean Pigott Hall
9:00 - 9:15 a.m.	<b>Welcome and Introduction -MC- Nancy Worsfold Councillor Shad Qadri-chair, Crime Prevention Ottawa</b>	Andrew Haydon Hall
9:15 -11:00 a.m.	<b>Keynote Speaker:</b> Michelle Mann-Rempell  <b>Panel</b> <b>Minwaashin Lodge-STORM Van –Vicky Chief</b> <b>Youth Services Bureau- Mia Maillet</b> <b>Neighbourhood Connection- John School-Cheryl Parrott</b> <b>POWER- Frederique Chabot</b>	Andrew Haydon Hall
11:15 a.m. -12:15 p.m. <b>Breakout Sessions</b>	French	Billings Room
	English	Honeywell Room
	English	Colonel By Room
	English	Richmond Room
	English	<b>Andrew Haydon Hall</b>
12:15 to 1 p.m.	<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>Jean Pigott Hall</b>
1:00 to 2:30 p.m. <b>Breakout Sessions</b>	<b>VAW # 1</b>	<b>Andrew Haydon Hall</b>
	<b>VAW # 2</b>	<b>Honeywell Room</b>
	<b>Youth</b>	<b>Richmond Room</b>
	<b>Neighbourhood</b>	<b>Colonel By Room</b>
2:30 -2:45 p.m.	<b>Health Break</b>	
2:45 to 3:30 p.m.	Closing Plenary-Report Back and Dot-mocracy	<b>Andrew Hayden Hall</b>

## Appendix B: All Conference Recommendations Grouped into Categories

Note: The number of dots is a count of the support for the recommendations by conference participants in the “dot-mocracy” exercise at the end of the event.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROACH (verbatim)</b>	
<b>SEX WORKERS HAVING A VOICE</b>	
Include the voices of sex trade workers at every level	15
Voices of sex workers at tables – leadership and capacity building is required	4
	<b>19</b>
<b>IMPROVING RELATIONSHIPS AND TRUST</b>	
Reducing “us” and “them” – building trusting relationships involving: community and service providers police and sex trade workers all facets of community together -volunteerism as one approach (community volunteers with service providers)	<b>6</b>
Building trusting relationships between sex workers and police, and sex workers and community	<b>4</b>
Improve relationship between the OPS and the sex-trade workers with respect to women reporting VAW	<b>0</b>
	<b>10</b>

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION (verbatim)</b>	<b># dots</b>
<b>SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SAFE HOUSES</b>	
Invest in safe, affordable housing including a safe house for women in the sex trade and addiction treatment	31
Housing and safe places for women (harm reduction/housing first models)	18
Increased programming, safe housing and safe houses	3
Safe Houses with trained workers specific to sex trade workers	0
	52
<b>SPECIALIZED POLICE UNIT</b>	
A specialized Police unit with officers trained in the complexity of sex work and its impact on the community	23
Encourage relationship building between sex trade community (frontline services and sex workers) and police by creating a dedicated unit similar to the mental health unit	19
New service for sex workers to contact trained police, either a contact number or a service akin to the Mental Health Mobile Unit	9
	51
<b>ANTI-STIGMA AWARENESS</b>	
Establish anti-stigma campaign and increase knowledge of the issues impacting sex trade workers at the neighbourhood level	19
Multi-pronged public education campaign (destigmatizing, evidence-based) with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-multi-target audience</li> <li>-community-wide</li> <li>-service providers</li> <li>-Governments (i.e. advocacy)</li> <li>-involving sex trade workers</li> </ul>	5



Education for youth in high-school or younger, and social service agencies and institutions to de-stigmatize sex trade workers (training)	5
Education/awareness raising around, and use of, harm reduction methods (i.e. needle collection/distribution, condom disposal,...) within communities	0
	29
<b>POLICY AND ADVOCACY</b>	
Development of a policy statement/advocacy group to express concern with the new legislation	22
Continue to lobby for funding to address the root cause of poverty	4
Write a position paper to express the concerns around the ambiguity of the charter as well as the increased pressure on resources that will result if the legislation passes	0
Lobbying/advocating to improve legislative environment	0
Create a multi-sectoral committee (Ottawa and Gatineau) mandated to study the impacts of Bill C-36 – include Polices, POWER, Children's Aid, Community Health Centres, neighbourhood residents, and representatives of groups that may not be at the table.	2
	28
<b>DROP-INS FOR SEX WORKERS</b>	
Introduce additional neighbourhood drop-ins, with health services, ensuring availability of supports for sex-trade workers and the entire community	8
More drop-ins and increase overnight access to drop-ins	3
Increase drop-in and mobile services for women involved in the sex trade	0
More services like Daisy's Drop-in that creates a safe space for sex workers and funding for such programs. Again, sex workers need to be involved in the development of such services to ensure they are relevant and accessible	1
Longer drop-in hours, more money invested in programs	0
	12

RESOURCES FOR SEX WORKERS, SERVICE PROVIDERS AND COMMUNITY	
<p>Wallet-sized resource card with phone numbers, with information/supports identified (up-to-date)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to be available to sex trade workers</li> <li>-211 number/operator with complete information for sex trade workers</li> </ul>	4
<p>Establish/create (a) mechanism(s) for fostering neighbourhood best practices (i.e. materials/resources for neighbourhoods to share)</p>	4
<p>Work with committees and groups that exist to create an environmental map of initiatives we have, gaps that need to be addresses so that services are coordinated (build on the report from POWER that identifies the issues by sex workers)</p>	1
<p>Create a client registry (all clients not just « good » or « bad ») to enhance the safety of sex workers.</p>	0
<p>Make the “Bad date” list more formal by streamlining and disseminating information through OCTEVAW. Implement a central system for resources.</p>	0
<p>Support for long-term – 10 years after, 8 years with housing,...gaps for transitional youth</p>	0
	9
PREVENTION AND EDUCATION	
<p>Education and awareness from a very young age (elementary) for prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-community, parents</li> <li>-John School</li> <li>-Don't Be that Guy</li> <li>-OPS VIP but include luring</li> <li>-Holistic harm reduction approach</li> <li>-Barrier at the school board level to this education</li> <li>-Twitter/hashtag platforms to reach youth</li> </ul>	3
<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-healthy relationships</li> <li>-sex trade as a profession with workers' rights</li> </ul>	0
<p>Broad education campaign addressing decrease stigma, risk of VAW and sex trade work</p>	3
	6

YOUTH SPECIFIC	
More focus on preventing youth from becoming sex workers (e.g. Longueuil project targeting runaway youth)	5
Communication to youth -language -non-judgmental -non-victimizing -non-negative, positive outcome choices -where? (Internet?) using tech. familiar to youth	0
	5
SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH	
Recognizing/addressing social determinants of health	0
Addressing the social determinants of health (*affordable housing)	0
	0
MULTI-AGENCY/ORGANIZATION GROUPS	
Service organizations need to talk and share information and avoid creating silos -gaps: school boards, sex trade workers, doctors need to at the table too -communicate with community groups, parents, etc.	0
A multi-agency group to address issues surrounding sex trade in Ottawa (sex workers must be involved)	0
Getting other peers involved in discussions and solutions	0
	0

## Appendix C:

### Safety and the Sex Trade: A Changing Legal Environment

Crime Prevention Ottawa  
Michelle Mann-Rempel  
Barrister & Solicitor  
LL.B.; LL.M.

### ***R. v. Bedford***

2013 SCC 72

Constitutional challenge to *Criminal Code* sections:

- s. 210 makes it an offence to keep or be in a bawdy-house;
- s. 212(1)(j) prohibits living on the avails of prostitution; and
- s. 213(1)(c) prohibits communicating in public for the purposes of prostitution.

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### ***Bedford***

- Sex trade workers argued that these provisions were contrary to section 7 of the *Charter* security of the person interests.
- Argued they put the safety and lives of sex workers at risk, by preventing them from implementing safety measures — such as hiring security guards or screening potential clients — that could protect them from violence.

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### **Section 7 of the *Charter***

7. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice.

Two prongs:

- Right to security of the person; and
- Principles of fundamental justice.

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### ***Bedford***

#### **Right To Security Of The Person**

- The prohibitions do not merely impose conditions on how sex trade workers operate.
- Rather, they impose dangerous conditions on prostitution; preventing people engaged in a risky-but-legal activity from taking steps to protect themselves from risk. [para 60]

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### ***Bedford***

#### **Principles Of Fundamental Justice**

Laws contravene the principles of fundamental justice when the means by which the state seeks to attain its objective is fundamentally flawed:

- Arbitrary;
- Overbroad; or
- Effects that are grossly disproportionate to the legislative goal. [para 105]

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## SCC Decision

- All 3 provisions, primarily concerned with preventing public nuisance and exploitation, infringe the section 7 rights of sex trade workers by depriving them of security of the person in a manner that is not in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice.
- One year suspension of the declaration of invalidity (until December 20, 2014).

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## *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*

- Bill C-36, tabled June 4, 2014.

### Stated Objectives:

- Protecting those who sell their sexual services from exploitation;
- Protecting communities from the harms caused by prostitution; and
- Reducing the demand for sexual services.

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## Proposed New Prostitution-Related Offences

**Purchasing sexual services** - Prohibit the purchase of sexual services and communicating in any place for that purpose.

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## Proposed New Prostitution-Related Offences

**Receiving a financial or material benefit** - Prohibit profiting from the prostitution of others, including through businesses that sell the sexual services of others online or out of venues (escort agencies, massage parlours, etc.)

Would not apply to persons who have entered into legitimate living arrangements with people who sell sexual services, children or other dependants. Exceptions made for other non-exploitative relationships – i.e. pharmacists, accountants, security service providers etc.

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## Proposed New Prostitution-Related Offences

**Advertising the sale of sexual services** - Prohibit advertising the sale of others' sexual services in print media or on the Internet.

Exemption where advertising one's own sexual services.

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## Proposed New Prostitution-Related Offences

**Communicating for the purpose of selling sexual services in public places where a child could reasonably be expected to be present.**

People who offer sex for consideration criminally liable where communicating in a public place for the purpose of selling their own sexual services where a person under the age of 18 could reasonably be expected to be present.

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### **Programs to Address Prostitution**

- \$20 million in new funding, including to support grassroots organizations dealing with the most vulnerable.
- Emphasis on funding programs that can help individuals exit prostitution.

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### **Our Challenge for Today**

- To understand what is already in place in Ottawa;
- To think through the changes to come;
- To recommend expansions / improvements to services;
- To build local relationships; and
- To agree that everyone's safety matters.

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### **Thank You to the Conference Committee Members**

Sharmaarke Abdullahi; Crime Prevention Ottawa  
Linda Anderson; City of Ottawa- By-Law & Regulatory Service  
Caroline Andrew; University of Ottawa  
Mike Bulthuis; Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa  
Frances Daly; Minwaashin Lodge  
Elsy David; Women's Initiative for Safer Environment (WISE)  
Francine Demers; Crime Prevention Ottawa  
Marian Green; Ottawa Coalition to End Human Trafficking  
Paul Johnston; Ottawa Police Service  
Gillian Keefe; Community Development Framework  
Fran Klodawsky; Carleton University  
Erin Leigh; Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women (OCTEVAW)  
Mia Maillet; Youth Services Bureau  
Kira Mandryk; Ottawa Public Health  
Lise Martin; Canadian Network of Women's Shelters & Transition House  
Cheryl Parrott; Federation of Community Association (FCA)  
Sheila Perry; Overbrook Community Association  
Francine Vachon; Ottawa Community Housing  
Katherine Van Meyl; Prostitutes of Ottawa/Gatineau Work Educate Resist (POWER)  
Nancy Worsfold; Crime Prevention Ottawa

Consultant: Elizabeth Kwan



**CRIME  
PREVENTION  
OTTAWA**



**PRÉVENTION  
DU CRIME  
OTTAWA**

## **Crime Prevention Ottawa**

**Partners for a safer community**

110 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

Tel: **613 580 2424**, ext. **22454**

Fax: **613 580 2593**

Email: **[cpo@ottawa.ca](mailto:cpo@ottawa.ca)**

**[crimepreventionottawa.ca](http://crimepreventionottawa.ca)**

## **Prévention du Crime Ottawa**

**Ensemble vers une communauté plus sécuritaire**

110, av. Laurier Ouest, Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 1J1

Tél. : **613 580 2424**, poste **22454**

Télééc. : **613 580 2593**

Courriel : **[pco@ottawa.ca](mailto:pco@ottawa.ca)**

**[preventionducrimeottawa.ca](http://preventionducrimeottawa.ca)**

