



June 19, 2021

Subject: Vote YES on Business By-law 2020-31 being amended to adopt the proposed Personal Wellness Establishment with stricter language and requirements

To Mayor John Taylor, Newmarket Town Councillors & Staff,

We are writing as a concern community group of Newmarket, to thank you for the work you have done to protect the wellbeing and safety of the community, families and children from the negative impact of Body Rub Parlours. Fight4Freedom has community outreach efforts in Newmarket and we exist to be an active voice and advocate of justice for individuals exploited by human trafficking in the form of sexual exploitation as well as the sex industry and to further assist them in finding necessary support systems that will aid in their journey to safety, healing, and moving forward.

We are asking that you hold firm to your decision and vote YES to ratify By-law 2020-31 being amended to adopt the proposed Personal Wellness Establishment with stricter language and accreditation requirements.

We are deeply trouble by the fact that advocacy groups like Butterfly from Toronto are attempting to cloud the truth of what body rub parlours really are and what “sex work” truly represents. Survivors of human trafficking, the Toronto Police and front-line service providers, like us, have all confirmed that people are being trafficked in body rub parlours and holistic spas throughout Ontario and Canada under the umbrella of “sex work”. These ‘businesses’ are fronts for sexual exploitation. The City of Toronto has itself acknowledged this reality. We have been doing parlours outreach since 2015 in various regions across Southern Ontario. Body rub parlours and holistic spas are repressive and discriminatory for vulnerable groups, not only to Asian groups. To associate the issue of body rub parlours to anti-Asian racism is an attempt to cloud the truth.

We would ask that you watch this short video, where 6 women who were formerly in body rub parlours talk about the truth and realities of this experience.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5rZon5hgwE&feature=youtu.be>
These are not isolated experiences by these 6 women but a shared reality of individuals who work in body rub parlours and holistic spas. We have seen from our field experience that local by-laws, similar to By-law 2020-31, designed to truly bring an end to injustice and sexual exploitation are effective in closing down parlour and spa fronts for sexual exploitation.

Unlike these Toronto groups, we are a community group of Newmarket and we are standing with you to bring an end to sexual exploitation through body rub parlours and other like establishments in our town. I am asking that you vote YES to ratify By-law 2020-31 being amended to adopt the proposed Personal Wellness Establishment with stricter language and accreditation requirements.

With respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gladys Mok', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gladys Mok
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