

To: Mayor John Taylor, Councillors of Newmarket and Town Staff

Hello, my name is Amanda Stassen and I had the privilege of joining the first deputation session on May 3rd over the matter of amending the Body Rub Parlour bylaw in Newmarket. While I was unable to join the June 16th special committee of the whole, I did review the proposal presented by the by-law team and submitted additional inputs on June 3rd for your consideration. I am submitting a written communication to you at this time for two reasons:

First, to say thank you. Thank you for standing up for justice and what is inherently right for the safety and wellbeing of our community, families and children. Thank you for hearing the voices of survivors and for giving careful consideration to the realities they've experienced in facilities such as body rub parlours. Thank you for 'standing on guard' for our community and our nation.

Second, I'd like to present a few counter thoughts to the points that the many of the body rub parlour and sex work advocates have shared to you.

1) **Canadian law passed in 2014 links Sex Work with Prostitution.** In December 2014 the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act (PCEPA) was passed. This law treats prostitution as fostering demand for sexual exploitation, views prostitution as a dangerous and exploitative practice and is harmful to those involved (disproportionately women and girls), communities and society. **Sex work fosters demand for sexual exploitation and therefore is harmful.**

2) **Body Rub Parlours set up people to break federal law.** Those purchasing sex in body rub centres, those advertising and recruiting the sexual services of others, and those receiving financial benefit such as the body rub centre owners who do not sell their own sexual services all are in violation of federal law. **By their own admission, sex work advocates are stating 'overtly' that sex is being sold and purchased in body rub parlours which is against federal law.**

3) **One of the key warning signs of a person being trafficked is their inability to speak for themselves.** Using the argument of the English language being a barrier to working as justification of why someone is engaged in selling services for sex is not only illogical but serves as continued rationale for enslavement. It is unconscionable for anyone to suggest that people should be accepting of indentured slavery as an outcome simply because they are an immigrant with poor English speaking skills. The sheer idea is highly unconstitutional.

4) **Acceptance (legalization) of sex work does not control sex trafficking or make it safer.** By fostering and normalizing sex work, a market is created that is bound by the laws of supply and demand. Acceptance of "sex work" as a legitimate trade increases demand. Demand requires product, and when supply is short it is found through manipulation, coercion and other means including child prostitution. All these means are cited as modalities leading to human sex trafficking.

There are many other reasons that I can cite and would be happy to do so if you would like further clarification.

I would like to end this note by addressing the 'English language as barrier-immigrant argument' that suggests there are individuals who feels that "selling sex" is the only means they have to secure an income to support their families. I am confident that there are a myriad of organizations and people

available right now who would be more than able to help them not only learn English but to find healthy jobs that would not be harmful to themselves or to our community. I would encourage you all to be strong and see through the rhetoric being spoken that is clouding the issue at hand by Toronto groups who do not care for Newmarket families or our community. **Sex work leads to sex trafficking - this is not a racial agenda, nor an immigrant agenda, it's a human rights and federal legal agenda.**

Please consider the above as you weigh your final decision on this matter and vote **YES** to move forward with By-law 2020-31 being amended to adopt the proposed Personal Wellness Establishment regulations with stricter language and requirements.

Extending peace and grace to you all.

Amanda Stassen
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Newmarket