



Major John Taylor
Newmarket Town Councillors

Dear Mr. Mayor Taylor & Town Councillors:

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

I am writing as an Anti -Human Trafficking Specialist, former Chair – BOD, Co-Founder of U-R Home Awareness & Support Services, as well as a resident of York Region. For the last eight years I have supported women/girls in York Region who have been sex trafficked and sexually exploited in a variety of avenues; hotels/motels, Airbnb's, body rub parlours, escort agencies, etc.

I would encourage each of you; Mayor Taylor, Deputy Mayor/Regional Councillor Vegh, Councillors Woodhouse, Morrison, Simon, Twinney, Kwapis, Broome, and Bisanz to stand-firm with your decision and vote YES to ratify By-law 2020-31 being amended to adopt the proposed Personal Wellness Establishment with explicit language and accreditation requirements.

The work that you have completed and the decision you make will protect our children and families while ensuring their wellbeing and safety from the negative impacts of body rub parlours in Newmarket.

Since more than two-thirds of the reported human trafficking incidents in Canada occurred in Ontario, it is imperative that Newmarket Mayor and council do all it can to prevent this crime.¹

Advocacy groups like Butterfly from Toronto and their supporters are attempting to mask the truth of the realities of body rub parlours and what “sex work” truly represents. Survivors of human trafficking, the Toronto Police and front-line service providers have all confirmed that people are being trafficked in body rub parlours and holistic spas throughout the Greater Toronto Area, and Canada under the umbrella of “sex work”.

¹ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-005-x/2018001/article/54979-eng.htm>



The Palermo Protocol, Section III, article 9, which addresses the prevention of trafficking in persons and includes in point 5,
States Parties shall adopt or strengthen legislative or other measures, such as educational, social or cultural measures, including through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that leads to trafficking.²
This Protocol was ratified by Canada in May 2002.

By voting YES to ratify By-law 2020-31 being amended to adopt the proposed Personal Wellness Establishment with explicit language and accreditation requirements you will be protecting girls/women in the Town of Newmarket from the “demand” for sexual services that is inherent in body rub parlours.

Six women Survivors of Body Rub Parlours speak of the realities of their experiences in this video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5rZon5hgwE&feature=youtu.be>

As a community agency working with survivors of human trafficking and exploitation, 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.

Kind Regards

Debbie Pond

Debbie Pond
U-R Home Awareness & Support Services

² https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/2000/11/20001115%2011-38%20AM/Ch_XVIII_12_ap.pdf