

June 20-2021

**In the matter of the Town of Newmarket Council Vote on the Personal Wellness Establishments
licensing initiative to take place on June 21-2021 at 1:00 pm**
(PDF of Bill C-36 from Canada's Department of Justice is attached.)

Mayor Taylor and Council Members,

Please note that this letter is in 2 sections: an executive summary followed by its full content.

Executive Summary:

- i. The PWE licensing regime/initiative is an ingenious and very effective tool in managing prostitution within commercial establishments that sell massage and sexual services.
- ii. Its policy of insisting on proper training and accreditation with on-going monitoring will help enhance the quality of massage services while keeping the prostitution-related activities out of Newmarket commercial establishments.
- iii. It is aligned with Federal law C-36 in terms of protecting the community from the criminal activities associated with body rub parlours and bogus wellness/holistic establishments and, very importantly, its goal of prohibition of sexual services **merits your full support.**

Full content:

Council,

Let's examine the law:

#1. Bill C-36, known as the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act* is clear in the matter of prostitution. It targets the criminals: (a) buyers of sex, (b) procurers a.k.a. pimps, (c) operators of establishments in which they sell the sexual services of prostituted persons, and (d) individuals who advertise the sale of sexual services of prostituted persons.

#2. Canada's Criminal Code in the matter of prostitution in massage parlours is also clear. The Code's (section 286.2) clearly states: "***It is a crime to receive a financial or other material benefit obtained by or derived from the commission of the purchasing offence of sex. It is illegal to earn money by owning, managing or working for a commercial enterprise, such as a strip club, massage parlour or escort agency, knowing that sexual services are purchased there.***"

This brings us to Butterfly's Asian-Migrant Sex Workers May 3rd-2021 deputation when its Executive Director admitted that Asian-sex migrant workers and owners-operators are providing sexual services in Newmarket. I quote them:

"We are now providing a lot of good service, alternative massage services to the people in Newmarket. But the new policy, Option 1 would exclude them to continue the service and many businesses would be shut down. We also need to recognize that they are the business owners/workers and residents in Newmarket who contribute to the town by paying rent, provide inexpensive massage services and spend expenses in the city."

It took no time for them to resort to accusations of 'racism and sexism'.

Those were born out of their realization that the PWE licensing initiative will go a long way in shutting down their illegal activities but not those of legitimate massage service providers.

Back to the Law and I quote Canada's Criminal Code: "*Those who sell their own sexual services are protected from criminal liability for participating in the commission of those offences if the offences relate to **their own** sexual services.*"

This means that independent, entrepreneurial sex workers will not be charged.

Therefore, you can ignore the repeated claims by Butterfly Advocacy Group that their Asian Migrant Sex Workers are not trafficked because **they are neither independent nor entrepreneurial** when providing massages with 'happy endings' in Newmarket-located body rub parlours.

I must remind you that Butterfly is a member of the Global Network of Sex Work Projects.

It is comprised of 313 organisations operating in 95 countries across 5 continents.

This network actively lobbies for the **full decriminalisation of the ENTIRE sex trade** including, and I quote from their website:

"Entire sex trade includes sex workers, clients, families, and third parties such as personal managers, brothel keepers, receptionists, maids, landlords, hotels who rent rooms to sex workers and anyone else who is seen as facilitating, organising and profiting from sex work."

So, locally, who is behind Butterfly Asian-Migrant sex Workers group, this alleged not-for-profit advocacy group?

I dare you to find, on Butterfly's website, any mention of:

- a) its membership in the Global Network of Sex Work Projects.
- b) its Board of Directors' listings of names,
- c) the members of its Executive Leadership Team,
- d) their organization listing with the province of Ontario, and
- e) an ANNUAL REPORT with AUDITED FINANCIALS that INCLUDE DONATIONS.

I researched what they offer, in terms of services and resources, to their female migrant workers. Primarily, they offer legal resources to help them deal with police officers, bylaw enforcement and immigration officers.

But I must emphasize that Butterfly does NOT offer career-management services that would enable sex migrant workers to exit the prostitution business.

#3. Newmarket's new PWE licensing initiative is clear. And appropriate!

The PWE bylaw is an ingenious and very effective tool in managing prostitution.

The use of accreditation is the silver bullet (with serious enforcement) and that explains the 'over-the-top-Racist & Sexist' reaction by Elene Lam, along with her parade of so-called academic experts (one from Rhode Island) and elderly 'victims of your racism'.

They know that the criterion of accredited training with certification will make a massive dent in their prostitution activities/revenues.

In closing,

The final vote you take on the new Personal Wellness Establishments' motion is one that will have lasting positive impact on your community. A YES vote will lead to a cleansing of the no-credentials sex workers and their pimps at the retail level.

Thank you.



Robert Vallée

Chair & CEO, PACT-Markham and Council of Women Against Sex Trafficking-York Region

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