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Programming Connection Case Study Package /  
Trousse d'étude de cas diffusée dans Connectons nos programmes

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**Materials from: Shift, a program of AIDS Calgary / Calgary Cares Centre  
~ Outreach Tools ~**

This document was assembled in June, 2011. It includes:

- Shift's legal rights brochure for sex workers
- Shift's brochure for indoor sex workers

For more information on Shift, read the Case Study in CATIE's Programming Connection at <http://www2.catie.ca/en/pc/case-studies>.

The Programming Connection is designed to encourage the revitalization of existing programs and the creation of new programs. Should you use any part of these materials, please credit the author/organization as named on this cover sheet.

**Documents sur : Shift, un programme de : AIDS Calgary / Calgary Cares Centre**

Ce document a été assemblé avec juin 2011. Comprenant :

- Une brochure de Shift sur les droits légaux des travailleurs du sexe
- Une brochure de Shift pour les travailleurs du sexe qui pratiquent derrière les portes closes

Pour plus de renseignements sur Shift, veuillez lire l'étude de cas dans Connectons nos programmes de CATIE à : <http://www2.catie.ca/fr/cnp/etudes-cas>

L'outil Connectons nos programmes a été conçu pour encourager la revitalisation de programmes existants et la création de nouveaux programmes. Si vous utilisez ces documents en totalité ou en partie, veuillez citer en référence l'auteur ou l'organisme tel qu'il figure dans cette page couverture.

# Offences in relation to prostitution under the Criminal Code:

*(You can be busted even if the police officer tells you he or she is not a police officer, shows you identification, or communicates for the purposes of prostitution)*

**Section 213:** Every person who in a public place or in any place open to public view : Stops or attempts to stop any motor vehicle - Impedes the flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic - Stops or attempts to stop any person or in any manner communicates or attempts to communicate with any person for the purpose of engaging in prostitution or of obtaining the sexual services of a prostitute is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction.

**213(2):** "Public place" includes any place to which the public have access and any motor vehicle in a public place or in any place open to public view.

**Section 210:** A person keeping a common bawdy-house (a place kept,

occupied or frequented for purposes of prostitution or indecent acts (including an escort service or erotic massage) may be imprisoned for up to two years. A person occupying or found unlawfully in a bawdy-house, or in control of such a place, and allowing prostitution-related activities to occur, may be imprisoned up to six months and/or fined up to \$2,000.

**Section 211:** The act of taking, or of transporting, someone to a bawdy-house. A taxi driver or a friend could be charged for transporting you to your workplace.

**Summary offences** carry a maximum six-month jail term, a \$2,000 fine, or both.

**Section 212:** Procuring or soliciting another to engage in prostitution or illicit sexual intercourse; enticing a person who is not a prostitute to a place for prostitution; encouraging or forcing someone to prostitute for gain; enticing an individual to take drugs or alcohol to enable anyone to have illicit sexual activities; living on income earned through another's prostitution activities

**Procuring offences:** Imprisonment up to 10 years if the client attempts to live off the income of a sex worker under 18, or attempts to purchase the sexual services of a person under 18, the maximum term of imprisonment is up to 14 years.

**Fingerprinting and photographing of individuals are ONLY permitted for indictable and hybrid offences.**

# YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT!

## THE POLICE

### **You must identify yourself if:**

- You are under arrest.
  - You are driving a car.
  - You are under the influence of drugs.
  - You are found in a public place.
  - Basically if the police officer decides it is appropriate.
- (Reality: you may avoid other charges if you cooperate)*

### **A police officer can search you if:**

- They have reasonable grounds to believe that you are in the process of, or on the point of, committing a crime.
- Request an officer of your gender if they want to do a full body search.

### **A police officer can search your home if:**

- They have a warrant-check for your correct name, charge and signature of a judge-the officer must show it to you.

### **You can be arrested if there are:**

- Reasonable grounds to believe that you are in the process of, or on the point of, committing a crime.

### **You must be formally accused of committing a crime before an officer can arrest you.**

- If not, you do not have to go with the police officer.

### **If you are arrested:**

- The police officer is obligated to tell you why and what your rights are.
- You are obligated to give your name, address and date of birth.
- Remain silent until you have legal representation, anything you say may be used against you.
- If you do not have a lawyer, the police are obligated to provide you with legal aid contact information.

- It is a really good idea to get the name and badge number of the police officer, and any witnesses present.

### **TIPS:**

- Keep a low profile, the less visible you are the less likely you will be a target.
- Stay current with local politics, community outcries, and events that may cause police to target sex work.
- Provide out call work only, in call work is illegal.
- Avoid negotiating in public places (i.e. hotel lobbies, street, bars, cell phones or public pay phones).

### **RECORD:**

- Details of everything that happened .
- Name/description/badge number/license plates/car numbers-police officer.
- Name and description of witness(s).
- Photos of injuries & Medical certificate which describes the injuries.

**If your rights are violated, call:**

Legal: Calgary Legal Guidance: 234-9266  
Support: Shift (AIDS Calgary) 237-8171

## Condom Negotiation

**Insist on condoms before any action happens, explain to the client that it is for both of your protection and that it makes it easier for you to relax and work.**

- Use your own condoms
- Put the condom on the client yourself
- Make condom use more enjoyable by using “fun” condoms: studded, coloured, or flavoured

**Problem:** Client claims latex allergy

**Solution:** Use a polyurethane condom

**Problem:** Client claims he is unable to enjoy sex with a condom

**Solution:** “Sell” the positives of condom use (i.e. longer lasting encounter)

**Solution:** Use a Female condom and put sexual health back in the hands of women

## What is Shift?

Utilizing a harm reduction and rights based approach, Shift works with adults involved in the sex trade to assist in improving their quality of life and reaching individualized goals.

Harm reduction recognizes that with most activities in life there are potential risks and dangers, but for many people abstaining from certain activities is not what they chose to do, or is not a possibility. Harm reduction then encourages people to take actions which may reduce the harm associated with the behavior. For example, using a condom when having sex.

## What does Shift provide?

We respect the choice for people to work and we can assist you to work safer by providing:

- **free safer sex tools**
- **information**
- **support**
- **advocacy**
- **non-judgmental counselling**

## Health

Take care of yourself! Schedule time off, get massages, do things you enjoy and relax. You will make more money if you are well rested and healthy.

Always use a condom and lots of lube for vaginal, anal, or oral sex. If you are using sex toys make sure that they are properly cleaned, and if they are shared always cover them with a condom. Use dental dams as a barrier between mouth and anus or vagina when performing oral sex. Check the client for any bumps, sores, or rashes before performing services.

Create a unique work character and sell your services as such, it can help you be more marketable and will also help you separate from your job after the work day is over.



Shift works with  
adults involved

in the sex trade  
to improve  
quality of life

and reach  
individualized  
goals.

## What's in a name? Sex Trade Worker

The term sex trade worker is used as an umbrella term for any person involved in the sex trade industry. This includes people who exchange sex for money or other goods and may work as escorts, masseuses, dancers, street level workers, phone and internet sex operators, etc.

The Shift program recognizes that for many people sex work is work, and should be treated as a profession. With any job or profession there are positives and negatives, and benefits and shortcomings. Historical titles like prostitute have a very negative association, and fail to acknowledge that a person working in the sex trade is just that, a person.

### Shift

110, 1603 - 10 Avenue SW  
Calgary, AB T3C 0J7

237-8171

[shift@aidsalgary.org](mailto:shift@aidsalgary.org)

Hours: Monday - Friday  
8:30am - 12:30pm & 1:30pm - 4:30pm

## Safety When Working

- While working you should *try* to abstain from drugs and/or alcohol. Being high or drunk can affect your ability to negotiate with clients.
- If you do outcalls, implement a buddy system. Be sure that someone knows where you are and when you expect to return. If your agency does not provide this as a service you can call a friend, or worst case scenario you can pretend to phone someone.
- Ensure that the client is the only person at the call; try to check out the area to make sure that no one else is hiding.
- Ask your coworkers if they have had any experience with potential clients before you accept a date. If you or your coworkers have a bad experience share with each other or report them to our bad date line (508-2500 ext.104).

*Get the money up front, set your limits on what services you will and will not provide before the action happens. It is more difficult to negotiate after the fact.*