



Canada's source for
HIV and hepatitis C
information

La source canadienne
de renseignements sur
le VIH et l'hépatite C

www.catie.ca
www.hepcinfo.ca
www.infohepatitec.ca

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

555 rue Richmond Street West/Ouest
Suite/bureau 505
Toronto, Ontario M5V 3B1
Phone/tél: 1-800-263-1638 or/ou
(416) 203-7122
Fax/télé: (416) 203-8284

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

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

- Shift short information card
- Shift PowerPoint presentation

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
~ Des outils promotionnels ~**

Ce document a été assemblé avec juin 2011. Comprenant :

- Une courte fiche d'information de Shift
- Une présentation PowerPoint de Shift

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.



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

P: 403.237.8171
F: 403.263.7358
shift@aidscalgary.org

200, 1509 Centre Street S.
Calgary, AB T2G 2E6

The program has three program intents:

Create safer working conditions by:

- Educating about harm reduction, human and legal rights in relation to the sex trade;
- Providing services and resources to improve quality of life for people involved in the trade;
- Presentations and education to community members, partners and allies;
- Providing outreach to indoor and outdoor sex trade workers.

Provide skills training/education opportunities by:

- Partnering with and referring people to educational and skill development programs.

Provide prevention and advocacy by:

- Providing legal assistance, court accompaniment;
- Provide prevention tools i.e. safer sex supplies;
- Working on key advocacy issues related to sex work.

Who is the program for?

Men, women and transgendered/transsexual people working in the sex trade. This includes people working on the street, massage parlors, escort agencies, strip clubs, and on the internet.

How to access the program?

Drop in services available Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, and 1:30 to 4:30 pm.
Contact the program co-ordinator at shift@aidscalgary.org or (403) 237-8171.

Introduction to the *shift* Program and Sex Work

Hazel Orpen, RSW
shift Program Coordinator

Janine Frey
shift Case Manager

History of Sex Work

Pre-confederation 1759 - 1867

- It is said to be the oldest profession
- Prostitution itself has never been a crime in Canada, but activities relating to the exchange have been prohibited.
- Throughout the 1800s sex work was primarily in brothels
- With the railway and migration westward most of the rail workers were single men, creating an environment for sex work to flourish.
- In 1867, with more families settling in the west the social puritans pushed for the closure of brothels and sex work took to the street.
- Seen as a problem, in 1869, vagrancy laws were expanded to outlaw street walking and bawdy houses “for unlawful carnal connection”.

Source: The Canadian Encyclopedia, 2010

History of Sex Work

Victorian mid-19th Century – 1920

- After Confederation more complex provisions were designed to protect women and children by allowing charges of living off the avails.
- Provisions were made to allow securing a search warrant.
- From 1911 conviction rates increased enough to warrant recording with gender separation. Despite the push by social puritans to rescue the women, the vast majority of convictions were of women.
- In 1917 when women received the vote in the Wartime Election ACT, one of the first actions influenced by their vote was to implement prohibition; which shut down establishments where sex work took place, further forcing activities outside.
- During this time sex workers were placed into asylums under the guise that they were somehow mentally ill, thus their immoral behaviour.
- The abolitionists went so far as to create an ad campaign depicting sex workers as evil and vectors of disease.

Source: The Canadian Encyclopedia, 2010 & Susan Davis, 2009

History of Sex Work Post Victorian + 50 years

- The social purity movement waned in the 20's and sex work continued with little commentary over the next 50 years.
- Focus at the time was on WWI & WW2.
- Sex workers in this time worked in supper clubs and were able to work in other employment during the War.
- In 1947 a new offense was added making “knowingly transporting to a bawdy house illegal. Again very few men were charges.

Source: The Canadian Encyclopedia, 2010 & Susan Davis, 2009

Contemporary

Late 1970's – Early 1980's

- Prompted by growing concern of “street prostitution” in residential neighbourhoods, protests were held and citizens groups portrayed sex work as an “insidious source of community decay”.
- Municipal, Provincial and Federal politicians were lobbied to strengthen the solicitation section of the criminal code.
- Sex worker rights groups, feminist groups and civil libertarians supported much broader legal and social reforms, as echoed by the Victorian Reformers: Allowing women and men to work in the sex trade with without being subject to criminal charges.
- In 1983 a special committee was appointed by the federal government to inquire and report on the problem.
- They recommended strong criminal sanctions against street sex work, but otherwise embraced the need for legal & social reforms. Only the latter was adopted by the government.
- Since then numbers of sex workers being assaulted, killed and missing has risen dramatically.

Source: The Canadian Encyclopedia, 2010 & Susan Davis, 2009

Prostitution Laws in Canada

Exchanging sex for money and other items of value (Prostitution) is legal in Canada.

- It is legal to be a sex worker.
- The laws surrounding prostitution in Canada make it almost impossible to engage in sex work without breaking the law.
- The four main points in the criminal code that make it difficult to practice sex work are:
 1. Section 210 outlaws common bawdy-houses
 2. Section 211 makes it illegal to take or direct a person to a bawdy house
 3. Section 212 prohibits living on the avails of prostitution
 4. Section 213 outlaws communicating for the purposes of prostitution.

Legalization Vs. Decriminalization

Legalization:

- Theory to legalize all forms of sex trade.
- The sex trade would be monitored and regulated by government/state.
- May mean that sex workers are required to work only in brothels, pass regular physical exams, etc.
- E.g. Nevada, Amsterdam, Germany and the State of Victoria in Australia

Decriminalization:

- Ideology to abolish all criminal laws as they apply to the sex trade.
- Means removing sections 210-213 out of the criminal code.
- Sex trade workers could then work without fear of legal persecution as all of the steps involved in their work would be legal.
- E.g. State of New South Wales

(<http://www.sexwork.com/coalition/derimvslegal.html>)

(www.chezstella.org)

Language

- **Prostitute and prostitution is the language that is used in the criminal code.**
- **Historically the term prostitute has been associated with criminal and moral deviance, and dehumanizes the person.**
- **The term sex worker shows respect for the person and for their basic human rights, as well as recognizes that for some, sex work is an occupation.**

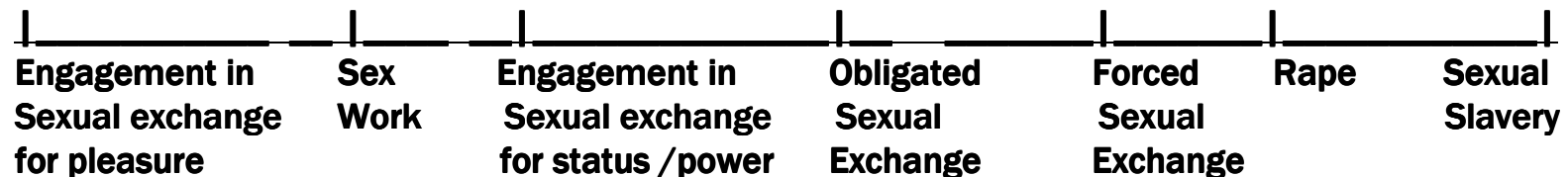
Continuum of Sexual Exchange

The BCCEC has developed the Continuum of Sexual Exchange to illustrate the scope of sexual exchange and where choice falls in relation.

Individual has choice and control/influence in exchange

Individuals can refuse exchange but risk financial loss and/or loss of status or stability

Individual choice and control is lost. External forces dictate activities



Source: British Columbia Coalition of Experiential Communities (BCCEC)
2009

Exploitation / Self-Determination

Exploitation:

- Under 18 years old is always exploitation
- 18 years and over who experience any of the following;
 - External forces dictate activities: poverty, homelessness.
 - Coerced or forced to provide sexual favours through guilt, threats, blackmail etc.
 - Lured or tricked
 - Human trafficking

Exploitation / Self-Determination

Self-Determination:

- Mentally competent consenting adult.
- Individual identifies that sex work is something they chose without coercion.
- Individual in charge of their earnings.
- Individual recognizes that sex work is an occupation in its own right and many people make the decision to make their livelihood this way.

Sex Trade Work

- Sex work takes place from and in many venues: street-based, massage parlours, internet, telephone, out-call, night clubs.
- Sex trade workers are people who provide a sexual service for money or goods.
- Sex trade workers are female, male and transgendered/trans-sexual.
- Forms of sex work include: exotic dancing, escorting, working the “stroll”, massage, adult film, peep shows.

A Look at the Sex Trade in Calgary

- Very difficult to determine exact numbers of people involved in sex work in Calgary due to;
 - The transient nature of the work.
 - Many sex workers do not identify as being involved in sex work, or do not believe that what they are engaged in is sex work.
 - 10% of the sex trade occurs on the streets.
 - 90% of the sex trade is occurring behind closed doors.
 - Shift data shows that sex work in Calgary is predominantly as independent escorts, and in massage parlors and escort agencies.

A Look at the Sex Trade in Calgary

shift Client Profile:

- 78% of clients are female
- 13% of clients are male
- 8% of clients are transgendered or trans-sexual
- 66% are Caucasian
- 15% are Aboriginal
- Others include: Asian, African, Latin American, and European
- In the last year approximately 1985 total contacts were made

Statistics as of jan, 2010

shift program

support services for **people** involved in the sex trade

Mission:

By utilizing a harm reduction and rights based approach, *shift* works with adults involved in the sex trade, to assist in improving quality of life, and reaching individualized goals.

Harm Reduction in the Sex Trade

Harm reduction is the philosophy of working with individuals and communities from where they are.

- Recognizes that some harm is inevitable.
- Offers solutions to people to help make safer/healthier choices.
- Understands that abstinence isn't always the best and only option.
- Strategies include: education, empowerment, occupational health and safety, provision of safer sex supplies, access to safer drug works, bad date sheets, peer support, prevention, condom negotiation techniques, etc.

Rights-based Approach in the Sex Trade

- Basic human rights of people is a core foundation of the *shift* program.
- *shift* recognizes the rights of sex workers as individuals and as workers.
- *shift* advocates on behalf of individuals working in the sex trade based on basic human rights for themselves and their families: appropriate health care, housing, safety & security.
- Sex workers are worthy of respect, dignity and protection from all forms of discrimination and stigmatization.

“Every sex worker who wants to exit the sex trade needs the option to do so. All sex workers, however, need the option to work safely, without fear of violence and exploitation” (Pivot Legal Society).

The *shift* program

- AIDS Calgary responded to a call for proposals and was successful in obtaining the former “Stepping Out” program in April 2007.
- *shift* launched in July 2007.
- *shift* Program unique in Calgary: works with adult women, men and trans-gendered persons throughout the sex exchange continuum.
- Telephone support available Mondays 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, and 1:30 to 4:30 pm.
- Drop in services available Tuesday - Friday, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, and 1:30 to 4:30 pm.

The *shift* Program has three intents:

1) To create safer working conditions by:

- Educating about harm reduction, human and legal rights in relation to the sex trade;
- Providing services and resources to improve quality of life for people involved in the sex trade (outreach, basic needs, case management);
- Providing reporting and access to monthly Bad Date Sheets.

The *shift* Program has three intents:

2) Provide skills training/education opportunities by:

- Partnering with government and community agencies that provide educational and skill development programs.
- Providing a peer support & education group.

The *shift* Program has three intents:

3) Provide prevention and advocacy by:

- Providing legal assistance resources and court accompaniment.
- Provide prevention tools i.e. safer sex supplies.
- Working on key advocacy issues related to sex work.
- Collaborating with community stakeholders and sex trade workers on the Calgary Network on Prostitution and International Rights Day for Sex Workers events.
- Providing presentations and education to community members, partners and allies;

Strategies for Service Provision with Sex Workers

- **Understand the Continuum of Sexual Exchange and recognize that not all people involved in sex work will want to exit or be prepared to exit.**
- **Be careful about over-generalizations and avoid merging this woman/man/trans-gendered with the stereotypes surrounding them**
- **Be conscious of your own values, your prejudices, your attitudes and your behavior, and then seek to understand the motivation behind them.**
- **Adopt a harm-reduction and open-minded attitude. Watch, listen and ask questions to understand their world of references and experiences.**
- **Validate and focus on his / her needs and expectations: reassure them and consider them, above all, remember a sex worker is a person like any other.**

Strategies for Service Provision with Sex Workers

- Respect their rhythm of progression. This will facilitate the creation of trust.
- Create a resource bank in your organization that will address sex workers' specific needs.
- Inform them of the services provided and their rights
 - If your organization cannot meet their needs direct them to a more appropriate resource.
- Support the fight against the stigmatization of sex workers

Bad Date Reporting

- **Shift** worked with Calgary Police Service (CPS) to create a bad date collection form to share important safety information with indoor and outdoor sex workers.
- Sex workers and 3rd party service providers can report Bad Dates.
- Bad Dates can include any behaviour that a sex worker wouldn't want to experience: non-payment, verbal aggression, physical assault, violence, anything that "creeps you out".
- Names of johns and license plate numbers cannot be reported.
- Reports can be made anonymously by calling 403-237-8171 or online at www.shiftcalgary.org.
- Shift can support sex workers to report crimes to themselves to the CPS Vice Unit.

Questions?

Further questions please contact *shift* at:

403 - 237- 8171

info@shiftcalgary.org

Visit the *shift* website:

www.shiftcalgary.org

Resources & Information

- *shift* Calgary <http://shiftcalgary.org/>
 - *shift* Blog www.shiftcalgary.blogspot.com
 - Pivot Legal Society
<http://www.pivotlegal.org/Issues/sextrade.htm>
 - Canadian National Coalition of Experiential Women and the BC Coalition of Experiential Women
<http://www.livingincommunity.ca/toolkit/Cpage6.html>
 - Stella <http://chezstella.org/>
 - Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
<http://www.aidslaw.ca/EN/index.htm>
 - Sex Professionals of Canada <http://www.spoc.ca/>
 - Sex Trade Workers of Canada
<http://www.sextradeworkersofcanada.com/>
-