

FIRST

Decriminalize Sex Work

Press Advisory

June 2, 2008

FIRST Feminist Forum “*Why Decriminalize Sex Work?*”

You are cordially invited to a FIRST Public Forum, Wed., June 11, 2008

VANCOUVER — Adult sex work should be fully decriminalized in Canada to advance women’s equality and protect their safety, according to FIRST, a new national coalition of feminists. FIRST is inviting the public and media to learn more about decriminalization and the health and safety of sex workers at an open forum.

Date: Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Time: Doors open: 6:30 p.m. Forum from: 7 – 9 pm

Location: Vancouver Public Library, 350 W. Georgia, Alma Van Dusen & Peter Kay rooms

Free admission

Speakers:

- Dr. Frances Shaver, Chair, Sociology and Anthropology, Concordia University, Montreal; and long-time sex industry researcher
- Tamara O’Doherty, FIRST representative, Criminologist, SFU/UFV
- Susan Davis, BC Coalition of Experiential Communities, and sex worker with 22 years experience
- Kate Shannon, BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS/ School of Population and Public Health, UBC
- Shari Allinott, Sex Workers United Against Violence
- Karen Mirsky, PIVOT Legal Society

Contacts:

Joyce Arthur: 604-351-0867. Tamara O’Doherty: 604-534-4450.

FIRST is a national coalition of feminists who work to support the rights of sex industry workers and advocate for the decriminalization of adult sex work. We are guided by the fundamental principle that sex industry workers should have equal benefit of the human rights protections that are available to all members of Canadian society.

For further information on FIRST, visit our webpage at: <http://first.vcn.bc.ca/home>