

# FIRST

Decriminalize Sex Work

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Press Release

November 22, 2009

## Sex Workers, Clients and the Law

*You are cordially invited to a FIRST Public Forum,*

*November 23, 2009*

VANCOUVER — One proposed "solution" to Canada's antiquated and oppressive prostitution laws is to make it illegal to purchase sex, but legal to sell it. However, this model is failing in Sweden, the country that pioneered it.

As in Sweden, Canada's current law against prostitution robs sex workers of their livelihood, and deprives them of the right to control their work environment and create safe and empowering working conditions.

Moderated by Madam Scarlett Lake, this public forum sponsored by FIRST will provide the public with an opportunity to learn about the men who buy sex, the experiences of sex workers with their clients, and why neither sex workers nor their clients should be criminalized.

**Date:** Monday, November 23, 2009

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

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

### **Admission by donation**

**Video** (10 mins): "A Swedish sex worker on the criminalization of clients" (Pye Jacobssen)

### **Speakers:**

- Chris Atchison, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Simon Fraser University. Topic: "John's Voice"
- Trina Ricketts, BC Coalition of Experiential Communities; Naked Truth (nakedtruth.ca). Topic: "Trade Secrets" - Results of interviews with clients and sex workers
- Jody Salerno, BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses. Topic: "The clients who paid me"
- Katrina Pacey, Pivot Legal Society. Topic: "Why Decriminalize Prostitution?"

### **Contact**

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FIRST is a national coalition of feminists that advocates for the complete decriminalization of sex work, for both sex workers and clients.