



Decriminalize Sex Work

For immediate release

November 24, 2013

FIRST Community Forum TRANSITions – Navigating Borders

VANCOUVER: Today, sex workers in Canada are in transition – not out of sex work, not into the shadows – but into the public square to boldly declare their right to work, their right to travel for their work, and their right to self-determination. A Vancouver community forum on Tuesday November 26 will address these issues and more. The forum is being organized by FIRST, a national feminist advocacy group working for sex workers' human and labour rights and for the decriminalization of sex work.

“This is a crucial time for sex workers,” said Joyce Arthur of FIRST. “We’re anticipating the Supreme Court decision early next year that will hopefully strike down Canada’s harmful prostitution laws. In the meantime, it’s important to build public awareness around the lives and rights of sex workers, and how stigma and anti-prostitution laws hurt them.”

“Our forum features three outstanding and well-informed speakers, so the public can look forward to an evening of fascinating discussions,” said Arthur, who noted the audience will have plenty of time to ask questions.

Community Forum Details:

Tuesday November 26, 2013, 7 to 9 pm

SFU Harbour Centre, Room 1400, 515 West Hastings St., Vancouver

<i>Borders</i>	Hot pants at the border: Sorting sex work from trafficking Julie Ham and Sharon Pickering, Monash University, Australia
<i>Work</i>	Sex work/square work: Exploring the dichotomy Raven Bowen, Simon Fraser University
<i>Law & Justice</i>	“All my relations?” Sex work and self-determination Sarah Hunt, Simon Fraser University

Moderator: Kerry Porth, Pivot Legal Society.

Sponsored by:

UBC School of Nursing, SFU Department of History and the Dean of Arts, Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW), Pivot Legal Society, PACE Society, and SWAN Vancouver.

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