



April 30, 2009

Premier Gordon Campbell
PO Box 9041, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E1

VIA FAX: 250-387-0087

Dear Premier Campbell:

RE: Working conditions for sex workers in British Columbia

I write to you in my role as Executive Director of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association (“BCCLA”) concerning the total absence of protection for and regulation of working conditions relating to the health and safety of sex workers in British Columbia.

You may be aware that in Vancouver as in many cities throughout British Columbia sex work is functionally legal. In many of our free weekly newspapers there are advertisements for the services of sex workers. On many of our street corners, sex workers are clearly engaged in their trade. In many massage parlours, who pay taxes and have business licenses issued by the city, sex work is as common as any other service offered by businesses in Vancouver.

Despite the wide availability of paid sexual services in Vancouver and other centres across B.C., the province has failed to regulate sex work in order to protect the health and safety of these workers.

We call on your office to conduct, immediately, a study of provincial labour standards and occupational health and safety legislation and enforcement agencies to determine in consultation with sex workers and those who advocate for sex workers how those statutes and regulatory bodies ought to be used to protect the health and safety of sex workers, and to implement those changes as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent and pressing issue.

Yours truly,

David Eby
Executive Director