

*Passed: September 2022*

**BC Sex Work Support Service Network  
Statement on the Decriminalization of Sex Work**

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has criminalized most activities associated with sex work including paying for sexual services, communicating about sexual services, restricting the locations where sex work can occur, materially benefiting from sex work, and advertising sex work, and;

WHEREAS the current criminal laws inhibit sex workers' ability to properly screen and communicate with their clients in order to keep themselves safe, and;

WHEREAS the current criminal laws ensure that sex workers will continue to work in a criminalized environment where they are more vulnerable to violence and exploitation, and;

WHEREAS we, as frontline service providers, have seen firsthand how these laws negatively impact sex workers; and

WHEREAS harms associated with sex work can be addressed through other relevant sections of the Criminal Code and appropriate labour standards and regulations;

THEREFORE, we call on the Government of Canada to remove all of the criminal penalties associated with adult sex work as well as removing Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations that prohibit temporary residents from working in the sex industry.