

Current project: “Trade Secrets”

Trade Secrets Project Overview:

Trade Secrets: Occupational Health and Safety Guidelines for Sex Industry Workers is a collaborative project engaging the following sex industry constituencies in occupational health and safety community development activities:

- On and off-street sex industry workers from rural and urban British Columbia;
- Exotic dancers;
- adult film actors;
- Live no-contact sex workers (peep shows, phone operators, sex shows, etc);
- BDSM (bondage, domination, sadomasochist) and fetish workers;
- Hustlers (male sex workers);
- Transgendered sex workers;
- Sex industry business owners;
- Support staff (reception, drivers etc.);
- Patrons of the sex industry.

This project will identify health and safety risks in the sex industry in the following areas (and other emerging areas of concern):

- Workspace;
- Among co-workers;
- In dealing with clients;
- In negotiating with employers / agents etc;
- Personal well-being;
- Physical health;
- In relationships.

Materials developed will include a large binder of all constituency specific occupational health and safety guidelines and a card-sized fold out highlighting key tips and health and safety strategies with resource information.

Project goals and deliverables include the following:

1. The mobilization and support BCCEC members from BC to design and implement a series of focus groups engaging a diverse population of sex industry workers in identifying health and safety concerns.
2. The completion of a series of broad based focus groups with all stakeholders to explore more general topics of health and safety, labour law, conflict management, wellness, human rights, safe sex practices, empowerment, and support services to expand and contribute to community knowledge and development.
3. The completion of a series of population specific focus groups to identify and address any distinct concerns related to work practices.
4. The development of a draft document entitled: *Trade Secrets- Occupational Health and Safety Training Guidelines for Sex Industry Workers* for peer review and finalization.

5. The dissemination of the above document through networks to:

- improve working conditions in existing municipally licensed sex industry venues;
- educate individuals new to the sex industry and those migrating to the region as a result of the 2010 Olympics and other economic drivers on how to make safe decisions of whether to enter, engage with or exit the sex industry;
- reduce tensions and work to unify and develop community among sex industry workers historically at odds due to criminalization, lack of ownership over the industry and competition for customers and safe work spaces.

Regional Activities

This project will form the basis for the creation of minimum health and safety standards in the British Columbia sex industry. Through the formation of a trade association, we intend to promote minimum standards among sex industry businesses and certify them based on the attainment of those minimum standards in their workspaces, policies, procedures and practices. Please view the "Leading the Way" report for additional context and other documents at: www.bccec.wordpress.com. This project is a crucial part of the formation of an industry association that will bring together diverse community members, stem the tide of individuals working on the street or entering the sex industry at the street level or in an uninformed way. Additionally, the City of Vancouver has agreed to hand out project materials with sex industry licenses.

With this in mind, capturing regional and remote experiences from sex industry workers in Victoria, Prince Rupert, Prince George, Coquitlam, Abbotsford, Surrey and Kamloops, (among other locations) is paramount for the integrity of materials created in this project. Materials developed must have broad applicability and must be the result of the meaningful participation of constituents to truly affect change in our communities.

Currently the "Trade Secrets" project is partially completed but on hold due to funding issues. This project is the foundation for building an Industry Association to protect ourselves from the uninformed actions of the past.

We working to pull together are first draft from the first all stakeholders meeting we held in the Spring of 2008 and the rural engagement held with sex workers in Prince George.

The information collected on the industry and how to be safe while engaging in sex work will give sex industry workers the tools to make safe decisions about their work and is viewed as a potential strategy in combating human trafficking in the sex industry.

In the past and currently in lieu of the 2010 Games, many strategies have been employed to protect the victims of trafficking. Unfortunately these actions were taken without any consultation with the sex industry and the results were the actions were not very effective if effective at all.

A project designed by the Salvation Army to combat human trafficking involved a Bill Board sign in downtown Vancouver written in English inviting the victims of human trafficking to access supports through a phone number. Clearly this was not very well thought out. If a person is a victim of trafficking they are not likely to speak English and are most likely being held captive somewhere. They would never see the Bill Board and even if they did see it, they would not likely be able to read it. This demonstrates why working with sex industry workers to create solutions is the key to meaningful outcomes.

The BCCEC has ties with community organizations such as the Orchid Project who have made great inroads into the massage parlors where the greater community assumes trafficking is occurring. Plans to translate the “Trade Secrets” occupational health and safety training for sex industry workers could provide access to supports and ways to report incidents of trafficking to sex workers in these isolated environments.

The following Budget reflects the goals for fund raising for the completion of the “Trade Secrets” project.

The high lighted portion represents the next phase, a series of individual stake holder group meetings where workers from various genres and of different sexes will brainstorm information relevant to their particular sex or area in the sex industry.

Item Description	Urban	Rural	Total
Consultation Contracts 23 x \$750	12000.00	5250.00	17250.00
Notetakers for each contract (mentorship) 23 x \$250	4000.00	1750.00	5750.00
Honoraria 8 ppl/contract = 184 ppl @ \$60 each	7680.00	3360.00	11040.00
Food/Supplies \$60/contract x 23 contracts	960.00	420.00	1380.00
Coordinator 48 hours/month x \$25/hour	9600.00		9600.00
Facilities Contribution \$315 x 8 months	2520.00		2520.00
Project Documenter 24 hours/month x \$25/hour	4800.00		4800.00
Professional Fees	1000.00		1000.00
Office Supplies \$100/month	800.00		800.00
Artistic Contributions	1800.00		1800.00
Postage	750.00		750.00
Engagement of workers during dissemination	3000.00		3000.00
3 community meetings (urban) Honoraria 15 ppl x \$80	3600.00		3600.00
3 community meetings (urban) Food \$150 x 3	450.00		450.00
Northern Member Lit Review and Orientation to Project Honoraria		80.00	80.00
Travel (gas) to Prince Rupert from Prince George		400.00	400.00
Accommodations Rural Outreach		1300.00	1300.00
Travel (airfare Kamloops and Prince George) Rural Outreach (\$500 each)		1000.00	1000.00
Per Diem Rural Outreach \$40/day x 12 days x 2 ppl		960.00	960.00
Travel (auto)		340.00	340.00
Totals	52,960.00	14,860.00	67,820.00

If you or your organization would like to support development of an Industry Association by the BCCEC you can do so by;

- Contributing directly on line – message title-BCCEC- Industry Association
- Contacting the BCCEC coordinator: Susan Davis: susan.1968@hotmail.com