

*For more information on health and safety  
in the sex industry and sex industry  
organizing please visit;*

**Trade Secrets**  
[www.tradesecretsguide.blogspot.com](http://www.tradesecretsguide.blogspot.com)

**BC Coalition of  
Experiential Communities**  
[www.bccec.wordpress.com](http://www.bccec.wordpress.com)

**STD Resource**  
[www.stdresource.com](http://www.stdresource.com)

**The Naked Truth**  
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Adult Entertainers & Friends  
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**West Coast Cooperative of  
Sex Industry Professionals**  
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# Trade Secrets for sex industry workers



**CAEC**



B.C. Coalition of Experiential Women

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# Forward

*This guide was envisioned and created by sex industry workers who are invested in the concept of self-governance. The following is a foundational document wherein workers shared their invaluable lived experiences, which were collapsed into best practices to operate as industry standards. We believe that standards or regulation should come from within the industry and not outside of it.*

*Sex industry workers have the knowledge, skills and capacity to shape the sex industry into one that prioritizes the health, safety and wellness of those who work within it, as well as dispelling myths and educating others.*

*Sex industry workers do not support exploitation, violence, youth involvement or forced involvement (economic or otherwise) in the sex industry. The sex industry, similar to all other industries consists of harms and benefits and it is up to those who work within it to reduce the harms and maximize the benefits.*

*To this end, adult sex industry workers who cover a range of adult services from adult film to escorts, hustlers to striptease artists, aim to create working environments and working cultures that adhere to human rights legislation, common law and labour standards. They aim to take control of the industry they work in.*

*These ideas are based on the operating principles that govern co-operatives --- one worker, one vote! Simply put, we want those who work in the sex industry to control the industry and to benefit directly from their labour, history and collective experiences.*

*The audience for this guide are primarily sex industry workers and stakeholders in the broader community who support self-governance, harm reduction, and the realization of human and labour rights for sex workers. Sex industry workers speak out and take action on issues that affect their lives at great risk, especially within criminalized environments and in the face of groups who work to silence and de-legitimize their contributions.*

*Projects like these only come to fruition through the generous support of progressive funders and the true grit of sex industry workers. I urge readers to embrace this document and recognize it as a practical guide for sex industry workers and stakeholders and as allegory... we will not be silenced.*

Raven R. Bowen  
Former Regional Coordinator  
BC Coalition of Experiential Communities

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## **Trade Secrets for Sex Industry Workers**

**Produced by**  
the BC Coalition of Experiential Communities  
**Coordinated by**  
Trina Ricketts aka Annie Temple  
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# The Sex Industry

The sex industry is sometimes referred to as the adult entertainment industry. Although many disciplines could be argued to be “sex industry,” most people think of street-based sex workers, striptease artists, phone sex operators, dominatrices, adult film stars, and escorts, when they think of the sex industry

Sex industry workers are people who provide a sexual service -- be it fantasy or reality -- for money.

For the purposes of Trade Secrets, we use the term “sex industry workers,” “sex workers,” and “adult entertainers” interchangeably.

The sex industry is made up of many different genres and disciplines. We provide these examples to assist your understanding of the guide as you read.

For a more extensive list, see “Our Language” located online at [www.tradesecretsguide.blogspot.com](http://www.tradesecretsguide.blogspot.com)

## Adult Film

### Adult Film & Photography

Movies and photos with adult oriented sexual content, including but not limited to categories such as soft-core, hard-core, max hard-core, BDSM and fetish activities.

### Adult Film & Photography Talent/ Model/ Performer

Adult who performs and/or models in adult-oriented films and photo shoot

## BDSM Work

An acronym for ‘B&D’ (bondage & discipline); ‘D&S’ (dominance and submission); and ‘S&M’ (sadomasochism). A ‘Sadist’ is one who obtains sexual enjoyment by watching and/or inflicting pain on another. A ‘Masochist’ is one who obtains sexual enjoyment from receiving pain, humiliation and/or being dominated.

The term “BDSM” describes any situation or practice that involves erotic power exchange - dominance and submission, pain play, bondage, sensation play, or anything related to these

## Fetish Work

With respect to sexual activity, a ‘fetish’ is defined as anything that sexually arouses a person, such as a foot fetish or a leather

### Adult Film & Photography Companies

Private businesses that operate adult film and photography studios, productions, and sessions for DVD, Internet or photos.

### Fluffer

Person who sexually arouses adult film actors on set in order to prepare them to perform.

activities.

BDSM work refers to any consensual activities between adults including some or all of these things, but on a professional level (we’re getting paid for it).

Dominants and Submissives are employed in this industry. An additional role includes those who work as ‘Switches.’ A Switch is one who changes from dominant to submissive roles, depending on the scene.

fetish. Fetish work is when someone offers fetish services for money. It can involve practices relating to BDSM.

## Female Striptease Artist

A female striptease artist is an entertainer who performs seductive striptease to music, taking off her clothes until she is naked, or wearing very little. A striptease artist may perform for a large or small audience; individuals or couples; in strip clubs, nightclubs, or at private parties. The term striptease artist encompasses features, showgirls, and house dancers.

### Feature

The highest paid striptease artist performing at a club is called the feature. Feature shows are generally interactive, with elaborate costumes, props, and themes. In Western Canada, although she is usually the highest paid showgirl, she shares a common job description with the other dancers who are paid for their shows. In Ontario and Quebec, the feature is often the only dancer paid to dance on stage.

### Showgirl

A showgirl is skilled at holding an audience’s attention using dance and/or other specialized skills (pole work, acrobatics, gymnastics, fire shows, theme shows, etc) and by responding to the audience’s reaction(s).

Common in British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba, showgirls are usually booked on stage for week-long contracts and work Monday to Saturday, with a day off and/or switch clubs on Sunday. They do not have a home bar and travel is often required.

Showgirls are paid per show and are not compensated for their entertainment expenses, additional time, floor time, or travel expenses. A strong advantage of showgirl work is a guaranteed paycheck at the end of the week.

### Private Dancer / VIP Dancer / House Dancer

A house dancer is a striptease artist whose primary income comes from selling dances that occur one-on-one in a private booth for individuals or couples. While on shift, house dancers are often required to do stage rotation, performing on stage for free, or for little pay. House dancers may be on shift by the bar, or pay a drop in fee to the bar in order to work. House dancers have the advantage of sleeping in their own bed at night and have the stability of a steady place of employment. However, income can fluctuate dramatically as it depends on the sale of dances. Private dancing is common in Central and Eastern Canada, and becoming more popular in Western Canada.

## Male Striptease Artist

A male striptease artist is a man who performs erotic dance or acrobatic movements while removing all or part of his clothing for an audience of gay men or heterosexual women. Male striptease artists are often body builders and are usually very well-toned and muscular.

Contracted under different rules and regulations than female striptease artists (in part due to there being fewer opportunities for paid male performance), male dancers are generally paid more for their shows with their shows lasting longer than female striptease artists shows. Male dancers usually have another job that provides the bulk of their income.

Male striptease artists perform in either a group (troupe or revue) or solo format to pre-recorded music that may follow a theme or exhibit similarities from song to song. Solo performers are required to perform more often than revue/troupe performers.

Male dancers commonly “tie off” which is a process that consists of tightly wrapping a thick elastic around the base of the penis when fully erect to maintain its girth for an extended period of time, presenting the visual effect of full arousal. This can be done as often as necessary.

Many clubs do not permit nudity, so the dancer is prohibited from exposing his penis. In some Alberta communities, licenses are required for nudity whether the dancer is male or female.

### Live Erotic Performer

“Live erotic performer” is a general term to describe people who provide sexual shows that may or may not include contact with the audience or an individual customer. The performance may be on stage or in person. Some examples are striptease artists, burlesque dancers, peep show workers, auto-erotic performers (who masturbate in front of an audience), fetish performers, or anyone who performs sexual acts on stage or in front of clients during private sessions.

### **Peep Show Performer (Booth Baby)**

A peep show performer engages in sexual activity - usually provocative dance, striptease, masturbation, or by sexually engaging with another performer - while the customer watches from a private booth. The booth is fitted with a window or shutter that opens when money is inserted into a coin-box or money slot. Typically, private booths surround a stage, separated from the performer by glass, and there is no contact between the performer and the audience. In some places, the performer may have the option to perform privately inside a customer's booth for an additional fee.

Some peep show establishments offer coin operated booths showing adult films, and in some places, video booths have replaced live performers.

### **Phone Sex Operator (Phone Sex Actress, Adult Phone Entertainer)**

A phone sex operator is a paid professional who engages customers in sexual fantasies over the telephone via what are known as adult chat lines. Phone sex operators may use suggestive language, role-play, sexual confessions, and real or simulated masturbation with customers.

### **Webcam Worker**

A webcam worker performs sexual acts online, such as role-playing, striptease, masturbation, ejaculation, urination, BDSM, or other fetishes. He or she performs before a camera with the content displayed on a website that customers pay to access. On many sites, webcam workers may engage with clients in a chat room while they are performing. Webcam workers may perform alone, with a sexual partner, or with other performers (i.e. duos, orgies, circle jerks). Many adult web sites are geared towards particular themes (i.e. amateurs, fetishes, age, ethnicity and/or sexual orientation).

### **Sex Worker / Escort / Courtesan**

A sex worker directly provides agreed upon sexual services in exchange for money or other payment.

### **Street-based Sex Worker**

A street-based sex worker finds and/or serves his or her clients outside. Many cities and communities have specific areas (called strolls) where outdoor workers can be found. Sometimes these are strategic locations where, for example, there is a lot of traffic, convenient places for a client (or "john") to pull over, or in the vicinity of a target market. However, often times they are forced to work in dark, isolated and/or industrial areas to reduce their visibility to police and other community members.

### **Escort Service Worker**

An escort service worker is a sex worker who traditionally only visits clients on an "out call" basis, meaning the worker would attend the patron's residence or hotel room for the encounter. Escorting may or may not include sexual contact, however, the client generally expects that sex will occur. Escort service workers are sometimes employed to travel with their clients on vacations or business trips or to accompany them for dinner or to an office party.

### **Independent Escort**

An Independent Escort is a sex worker who does not work for an escort agency, massage parlour, or health enhancement center, but works as a sole proprietor or free agent. An independent escort may entertain clients in their home while some rent other locations such as studios or hotel rooms, as a work site. An independent escort may or may not do outcalls or travel with clients.

### **Massage Worker/ Health Enhancement Center Worker**

A massage or health enhancement center worker is a sex worker who works in a retail or licensed business establishment on an "in-call" or on-site basis. Sex or full service is not always provided but a body massage followed by sexual release in the form of a hand job is generally expected. The level of contact is usually the choice of the worker with a wide variety of work environments ranging from fantasy rooms to beauty parlours.

### **Escort Service**

An escort service or agency is a sex industry business that is intended to enable sex industry clients and workers to meet safely on an 'out-call' basis. An escort service traditionally provides advertising, security in the form of a driver, a call back service in the form of a booking girl, and access to the business owner's regular clientele. An escort service covers its costs and makes a profit by collecting a percentage of the escort worker's hourly wage.

### **Massage Parlour / Health Enhancement Center**

A massage parlour or health enhancement center is a sex industry business that operates as a retail or licensed business establishment on an "in-call" or on-site basis. The business traditionally provides a secure work environment, advertising and access to the business owner's regular clientele. A massage parlour or health enhancement center business covers its costs and makes a profit by collecting a percentage of a worker's wage or by charging a fee for the use of an on-site room where services are performed.

### **Glory Hole Worker**

A glory hole worker is a sex worker who, for a fee, provides sexual services anonymously through a hole in a wall or door. Some glory hole workers erect false walls in the entrance of their residence where the client enters, inserts his penis through the wall and receives sexual service. Others establish a more discreet location such as a public bathroom. A glory hole worker may perform, fellatio (BJ), a hand job, or full service however fellatio is generally expected. A glory hole is an anonymous and safe work environment and is generally run by independent sex workers.

### **Transgender Sex Worker**

Transgender sex worker is a broad term that refers to any individual selling sexual services whose gender expression (physical, emotional, spiritual) differs from their biological or genetic gender. Transgender sex workers may choose to alter their appearances as a personal expression, feeling that they have been born into the wrong physical body and/or may do so in order to appeal sexually to a customer's specific fantasy or fetish.

### **Hustler**

Hustler is a slang term often used by men to characterize their involvement in sex work, however, not all hustlers are sex workers. A hustler can be anyone who works freelance for themselves to make fast money in order to survive. Hustlers are typically clever, cunning, quick-witted and develop a keen sense of street smarts. Some classic examples of a hustler are pool sharks, card tricksters and sleight-of-hand artists.

H.U.S.T.L.E.R. as an acronym sums it up well and may stand for- 'How U Survive This Life Everyday Resourcefully'.

# Working the Street

*“I like working the street because I can turn down customers if I want and I don’t have to give any of my money to anyone else.”*

Our street-based workplaces can include motels/hotels, behind the dumpster, behind and in stores or businesses, by the jail, in a field, homes of clients, bar bathrooms, bar stools (in public), the sheriff’s office, vehicles, alleys, and street corners, among other places.

Stigma and stereotypes about sex work are usually focused on those of us who are street-based because we are the most visible population of sex workers. However, street sex workers are estimated to make up only 10 - 20 percent of sex industry workers overall.

## Getting Along With Others

In neighbourhoods where there is more street-based sex work taking place, residents and business owners sometimes attempt to “clean up” the neighbourhood by forcing us out. They do this in a number of ways - from taking down license plates of johns to verbally and even physically attacking us.

Here are some ways to reduce conflicts with other community members when we’re working the streets.

- Don’t pick a corner close to a school. Students and parents are around during the day and if you are too visible, they will complain. This will result in police action and maybe even a court-imposed “no go zone” order, which will force you to find another spot to stand. Any regular clients you have met won’t be able to find you and you will have to start building a clientele all over again. If you do choose to work near or in a playground or schoolyard, do not leave condoms or rigs behind for children to find, as this will also result in police action and have the same results as above.
- If you can, whenever possible take your customer somewhere indoors. This is safer for you as he will be less likely to harm you. It also means residents won’t see the physical sex act. People offended by public sex acts will usually call the police.

- Clients often approach people who are not sex workers in neighborhoods where sex work occurs because they can’t tell who is a sex worker and who isn’t. Criminalization has meant that sex workers must try to blend in to avoid detection. Dressing up would allow consumers to be sure who is who, however it could make sex workers more visible to police. One worker suggests a middle ground to try to stabilize this issue. She chooses to wear something nice, but not over the top.
- If you mostly work in cars, try not to park in the same spot over and over. This will concentrate residual mess (condoms, needles) in one area and lead to complaints from residents or business owners. Always try to keep areas where you work free of debris to prevent police action.
- Attempt to build relationships with community members that you see often, by saying hello with a smile, or making small talk. Eventually, your neighbours will know you as a person and be more likely to take their concerns to you, rather than the police.

Being a street-based sex worker is the most dangerous area of the industry because of our visibility and the subsequent police repression. Some of the risks include getting arrested or having to give favours to avoid arrest, being left stranded far from home, being set-up and robbed, getting raped and/or beat up and even

killed, being isolated from help if we’re in danger, getting sick from working out in the cold, and even freezing to death.

Because of the laws around sex work in Canada, street-based sex workers try to avoid being arrested by working in dark, isolated areas. This makes us vulnerable to violent predators. John Lowman, a criminology professor at Simon Fraser University, estimates from his research that street-based sex workers are more likely to be murdered than any other person in Canada (Dr. John Lowman, Paul Dillon, “Life On The Streets in Dangerous,” Surrey Leader, 17 May 1998).

## Safety Tactics

Here are some safety suggestions from and for street-based workers:

### Before Work

- Dress nicely. You will be treated better and feel good about yourself.
- Dress warmly.
- Don’t wear anything around your neck that can be used to strangle or drag you, such as necklaces, scarves, etc.
- Wear shoes you can run in, or that you can slip off easily.
- Carry a whistle. While some prefer to carry weapons, such as mace, such things can be turned against you. A whistle is safe, small, compact, legal and loud.
- Pick up an ugly trick list before working. (Bad Date Sheet, Red Light Alert, Ugly Mug, etc.)

### Where You Work

- Try to work in well-lit areas near a phone.
- Carry a charged cell phone. Even if you don’t have a plan, you can make a call to 911 from any cell phone as long as it’s charged.
- Carry change for the phone.
- Work with friends, if possible. If you have to work alone, carry a piece of chalk with you to write down the license plate of your next client on the sidewalk or wall where you are standing. Always casually tell a client you have been seen leaving in their car and are expected back at a certain time.
- Have a spotter.

- Make friends with the other workers around you so you can watch each other’s backs.
- Make friends with the beat cops in your neighbourhood, if possible. They’ll watch out for you more and take it more seriously if someone assaults you.

### Before Getting In A Car

- Always stand back a little when the customer first pulls up.
- Familiarize yourself with types and makes of cars, try to remember plate numbers.
- Ensure the client is alone in the vehicle. A panel van or other large vehicle where the interior is not visible could hide predators.
- Make sure there is a door handle on your door before you get in. Don’t get into cars that the driver has control over the locks.
- If the car is a mess, don’t get in.
- Make sure there is no gun, knife, rope, tape, or other weapon before you get in.
- Look at the customer and check his level of sobriety and emotional state. Is he agitated? Does he appear drunk? High on drugs? Mentally ill? Be sure of his mental state before entering the vehicle.
- Communication in a public place is illegal so do not talk about service or money through the car window or before entering the car. Get into the car but keep one foot on the ground outside the car while you negotiate what you will do and for how much. This way you have a better chance for escape if you are unwilling to accept the type of work the customer desires or the amount of money he is willing to pay.

### Once In A Car (or at service location, if walking)

- Once terms are negotiated and you are in the car, continue to evaluate his emotional state. If you are unsure for any reason, plan your escape for as soon as the vehicle stops.
- If you have a cell phone, call someone or pretend to call someone as soon as you make the date and report where you’re going and something about your date that would help identify him. It may deter him from any ulterior motives.
- If you have a cell phone, record the license plate number in your phone or text it to a friend

## ***During the Date***

- Tell the customer where you want to do the date and choose an area you are familiar with.
- Envision an escape route in case you need one. If it's winter, see where you could hide under the snow.
- Whenever possible, take the customer somewhere inside. Preferably to a place where there are other people and even better if they are people you know. A client is far less likely to attack you if he knows there are other people around. Being indoors gives you somewhere to clean up after, as well.
- Don't rip off the clients - they may take it out on you or other workers.
- Watch to make sure the client does not remove the condom without your knowledge.

## ***If A Client Becomes Aggressive or Violent***

- Tell him your name and try to humanize yourself by talking about your children or your life. You could also say you are HIV positive, but this tactic might cause more anger.
- Run into traffic and wave people down.
- If you have to run away through snow, cover your tracks. A worker in Prince George recommends getting on top of the snow and rolling so there are no tracks, then hide until the predator is gone.

## ***After the Date***

- Do not accept a 'ride back' to your corner. Whenever possible, exit the vehicle immediately after the session is over to prevent any further risk at the hands of a client.
- Share information with other sex workers. If you have had a bad experience with a client, pass the details on to organizations that have a direct connection to bad date reporting.

## ***Supplies for the Street***

- Zip-lock Baggies, in case you have to work in a car or schoolyard. This way you can take the condom and wrapper back and dispose of it in a way that respects the community.
- Wet naps - so you can clean a little if you are working in a car or outside.
- Mints - fresh breath always makes us feel better and is nice for the clients.
- Condoms.
- Lube.
- Lipstick.
- Sex toy - some clients will want no contact and just want to masturbate in front of you. If you have a toy, you can put on a show and the job will go a little faster.
- Cell phone.

## ***What Not To Bring***

- Never carry a weapon because it can be turned on you. Don't give them something they can use against you.
- Do not carry your ID or any other items of personal value. If the client wants to rob you, you won't be worried about letting him have your purse.
- Working Indoor
- When we refer to sex industry workers who work "indoor," we are talking about the majority of sex industry workers - all of us who do not work on the street. We work in agencies, our own homes, clients' homes, bathhouses, apartments, cruise lines and hotels, to name a few.

# *Working Indoor*

There are many "indoor" venues where sex work takes place. In-house refers to sex work done at a workspace such as a home, dungeon, or massage parlour. Out-call refers to going to the client - their homes, hotels, clubhouses, yachts, and even party buses.

Working indoors increases the health and safety of sex industry workers because we have access to toilets and showers for cleaning up and because others are usually around, in case we need help. But we should still be aware of potential dangers and take precautions to reduce any risks.

## ***Safety Tactics***

Here are some tips for staying safe when working indoors:

- Do not answer calls from private or withheld phone numbers. Your call display can leave evidence, in case of an emergency.
- Have a driver take you on out-calls, so someone knows where you are. If he is also acting as security, make a plan with him so he knows if and when to interrupt the session.
- Call a friend or your agency in front of the client so he/she knows someone is keeping track of where you are and whom you're with.
- Have another worker or security in the next room.
- Make sure the doors and windows are locked, and the blinds are adequately closed before commencing an appointment. This prevents predators or robbers from getting into the suite while you are entertaining.
- Keep your cell phone close in case you need to call 911.
- Have a safety plan to phone your booking staff if a conflict arises. Then stay on your cell phone while the booking person phones the client, distracting him so you can escape.
- Watch to make sure clients do not remove condoms without your knowledge.

## ***Being Discreet***

Here are some tips to help you keep your business discreet and consistent, without drawing the wrath of your neighbours or other community members.

- Don't keep clients waiting in halls, lobbies, or in front of the building. Clients appreciate discretion, and this can also help prevent neighbours from calling the vice squad.
- Keep windows and drapes closed, to avoid offending others with visuals or noise pertaining to sex work. Keep the volume reasonable to help prevent police calls or neighbours complaints.
- Don't discuss session activities or money with clients outside your home where the community and public can hear you.
- Don't wear a lot of make-up or dress sexy when going to an appointment. This cuts back on attention from civilians and allows you to travel more discreetly. Pack make-up, clothes, and make-up remover. When you arrive, immediately excuse yourself and go to the washroom and apply more makeup. Before leaving, wipe the extra make-up off.
- Your home is your fortress. Do not party there. Keeping your home private and discreet is key because noisy tenants draw attention. Being a noisy, problem tenant can lead to eviction and force you to move your business location. This will cost you income and some of your regular clientele.
- Don't get too close to your neighbours. A connection with a neighbour can quickly become complicated and end up compromising your privacy. For example, if a fellow tenant discovers your occupation, he or she may be frightened or offended, which can also lead to eviction and loss of income.

## Stags & Private Parties

These shows are usually done in private residences, party buses, or private clubs or restaurants that do not normally book entertainers. Booking is done either through agencies or privately and through online sources.

Because it's an unregulated environment, contact is totally up to the entertainer and ranges significantly. You are responsible for your own security, transportation, and fees. You are generally paid to do a strip show, duo, or live erotic performance then you may offer lap dances. Some gigs require you to stay and socialize, hostess, or hang out with the party. Other gigs are quick "do a show and get out." Pay ranges depending on tips, lap dances, time committed, and your ability to charm.

Most often stags are done alone or with another entertainer and without security. Safety precautions are the same as outcalls. Have someone know where you are, text the name, phone number and address to someone you know. Arrange for how often you'll check in with a friend or agent. With an exotic dance gig it's usually when you leave (or within the hour). If it's longer (2-4 hours), check in every hour or so.

## Dungeons

There are many potential risks involved with dungeon work, including, for example, pinching fingers in clasps/chains, tied-up people falling while equipment is attached to them, bondage cutting off circulation, fainting from pain, etc. Some tools can be particularly risky, for example, the Violet Wand.

Predators posing as clients could also use our tools and supplies against us. Don't allow your client to walk around the dungeon where he can get a hold of the gear. Get the client naked and crawling with the donation in his mouth as soon as possible. Then get him in restraining gear immediately.

Ensure that your co-workers/other performers know what they are doing and are experienced in particular with rope tying, toys, and bondage techniques. These can be dangerous if done incorrectly. You could be injured or worse.

## Living in Your Workspace

It is not uncommon for sex industry workers to live in their workspaces. For example, some striptease artists place all their household belongings in storage while they live on the road. Many Dommies live in their dungeons. Sex workers share rent on an apartment where they can live, work, and watch out for each other too. Actors operate webcam businesses out of their bedrooms.

If you live in your workspace, make sure you get out for breaks and fun as much as possible. Spending too much time in your workspace can make you feel bored, depressed, and burnt out. We are meant to have balance in our lives. Too much of one thing is never healthy.

## Hours of work

The hours we actually perform services may be very small in comparison to the hours we are on-call. Some escorts, for instance, are expected by their employers to be on-call 24/7. But at the end of the week, they've only worked three to ten hours. The hard part is having a life. Get to your kids dance recital? How about a few hours of uninterrupted sleep? Good luck!

Striptease artists are not required to be on call, but sometimes find themselves blacklisted for saying no to a gig. Many dancers get around this issue by booking through several agencies and switching whenever a conflict arises with one of them. After awhile, the cranky agency will forget about it and be glad to hear from you when you call again.

A show may only last 18 minutes but the striptease artist often works 10 to 13 hour shifts. The time between shows is rarely enough to engage in meaningful activities.

Don't underestimate the power of a psychological break. Being on-call or at work between sessions/shows, is NOT time off work. Only you know how burnt out you get without a break. Be good to yourself.

## Security

You know that big, lovable guy friend of yours who never has a job? Put him to work as your security. Yeah, it sucks to take a cut off the top. But it's easier to give it up because he's your friend. You'll feel more confident and comfortable knowing you've got back up if you need it.

# Adult Film Studios

Before applying for an adult film position, find out either the name of the company, or the name of the person hiring. Google search their names. Check out their web sites. Go to online forums for sex workers to read reviews. Ask others in the industry what they know.

If they are offering a huge amount of money, it is probably too good to be true. Call around, look at newspaper ads, or look at online listings to see what the going pay range is.

Create a list of what activities you are willing to do. Ask the business owner what will be required of you, how long the shoot will be, and how much the pay will be. Try to negotiate your pay or the activities you're expected to perform before the shoot.

Get regular STI checks from clinics or your doctor and get a photocopy of the results to bring in for work. You will need ID to show the doctor to get your results. Most companies require testing every one to six months. Ask about this in advance to get the ball rolling before commencing work, so you will be prepared. It usually takes one week to get results.

Have two pieces of government issued ID available at the time of the shoot. If they do not ask for ID then they could be pedophiles that film kiddie porn. Or they could be setting you up for a snuff film where you will be killed during the shoot. Do not trust anyone who does not require ID.

Most professional film companies do not allow performers to bring accompaniments to the shoot. It's always worth asking though.

Use a 'spotter.' Whether it is a driver outside or someone you can text. When texting, contact your spotter every hour or two so they know you are safe during the filming / photography session. Make sure the spotter knows the producer's name, address and phone number so police can be called if your texts stop coming and the performer won't answer the phone.

Leave a paper trail of where you are going. Email your spotter or a friend the location of the shoot as well as other information such as the name of the company, email address of the

business owner, pertinent phone numbers and dates of the shoot. This way, if communication is lost somehow, the police can be called to intervene.

After you have had naked images of yourself spread across the Internet, prepare to be noticed in public. Some people may embarrass you publicly, disrespect your privacy, and act inappropriately. Stick to familiar places and find ways to maintain personal safety. This could be buying a guard dog, getting a tough-ass lover, hanging out at safe public locations when alone, and having a cell phone on hand at all times. There are serial killers who prey on those in the sex industry. Adult film performers are no exception.

When choosing adult film work, there are many options for employment. Some are safer than others. Solo work using your own toys is the safest way to not get an STI. There are many fetish sites that film only your feet, your armpit, bubble blowing or other interesting activities, that are very safe forms of employment. Working for an exhibitionist / voyeur shoot is great too as it could be a shoot of you changing in a change room, or a camera under a desk watching you open your legs.

If you are going to do sexual activities, check before the shoot if the company does bareback shoots, or if condoms are worn. Ask if dental dams are used during pussy eating scenes. Ask if you can use condoms during blowjobs. If barriers are not used, then there is a high risk of contracting diseases. Even kissing is unsafe, as many people have the herpes virus that causes cold sores. Only choose sexual work that takes as many health precautions as possible. Safe sex can still be sexy to watch.

If you have a violent situation occur on set, phone police or post reviews onto online forums to warn others. If there is a bad date sheet for escorts, report the incident to be put on there. Many industry workers cross over into other industries. When posting about violent situations, do it in a way that doesn't disclose who you are as the person reporting. This will help you to avoid repercussions from the community.

# Webcam & Internet Safety

Some webcam entertainers work in an office setting with a computer and a bed in each room.

To prevent an exchange of bodily fluids from previous workers:

- Put your own plastic cover on keyboard.
- Bring Lysol disinfectant spray to spray on office phones used communally for webcam with phone sex shows.
- Bring your own clean sheets and bedding to your cubicle.
- Bring lots of your own toys and costumes. Cover toys with condoms if you are sharing.

## Internet Safety

If you are running a web service of any kind from home, make sure you have a firewall and an antivirus system to protect yourself from hackers.

If you are using wireless Internet in your home, make sure it is secure. Others can easily log onto unsecured wireless Internet connections and post information on the Internet that would lead back to you. You don't want police showing up to your dungeon because of someone else's actions.

## Masking an IP Address

By Parched Mosquito

You can mask an IP address by placing a middleman computer between yourself and the "Internet." The most common way of doing this is to use a household router. A common router is a stripped down computer that handles all Internet traffic to and from your house before your Internet service provider sees it. Your individual computers connected to the router are not visible to others on the Internet, but the router itself is.

It's easy to be "on" for long periods of time, especially if you are in the comfort of your own home. But it's still a job and can be physically, mentally and emotionally draining. Take breaks. Set regular hours for yourself. Be prepared for busy times and slow times. Pace yourself. Watch your posture. Drink water. Eat meals. Get enough sleep.

Many webcam clients live in remote areas with few sex workers, so the only way they can get workers to visit them is if they pay all the costs. If a webcam client wants to send you money to travel somewhere for an actual live sex work session, take as many precautions as possible. Make them pay up front, give you their real names, and pay for your accommodations.

As anyone can look up the owner of a web site domain name, it's also wise to make sure that your personal information posted is either blocked (with a third party service) or uses a P.O. Box address. Sometimes your web host company will replace your contact information with theirs. Just tell them that you are concerned about your personal information being available to the public.

Although there are tricks to make it difficult for others to copy your photographs from websites, there is really no foolproof way of doing it. Clients can easily do screen captures of anything they see on the Internet.

To move this into a context that could hide your webcam traffic, you would need to place a computer on the Internet that can do two things:

NAT (this is what your router does) and VPN. VPN is a secure connection between computers, across networks and media (media meaning transmission media like wires, fibre optics, and such).

After setting up a middleman computer, you use VPN to securely connect to the middleman computer. The middleman then translates your

IP address and network requests between the communicating computers. In the case of the webcam, the broadcaster and receiver.

However, this will not prevent some people, such as "the authorities" from discovering your computer trail. But it will stop most "script kiddie hackers" in their tracks.

Most freely available versions of Linux can act as this so called middleman computer. Windows (server) can also do this, but it costs money.

## Ensuring Your Computer is Secure

By Thomas Covenant

This article is divided in two sections:

1. The threats you face and why you want to secure your computer
2. An easy to implement approach to give you some security.

### **The threat and why you want to secure your computer.**

The world is connected via the internet; you can hardly have a functional computer without access to the internet.

There are very bright people on the internet who spend their entire day building "threats." Let's call them "Crackers." If you read the newspaper you will have read about viruses, trojan horses, spoofing, spyware, malware and others. You can spend weeks looking at the

### **An easy to implement approach to give you some security**

If you are using Shaw then use their Shaw Secure program. If you have a problem then Shaw "might" be able to help you. Cleaning up a compromised computer is tricky and time consuming and you cannot be sure that the problem is fixed. A quick solution is to reformat your hard drive which means you will have lost any personal information.

Therefore: You have to have a backup of your important files.

You should have an anti-virus and a fire wall program.

The anti-virus and fire wall program will scan your computer and hopefully identify malware etc before they install. Microsoft offers Windows Defender which is free, but you can also use AVG Antivirus, or some commercial programs like Norton or Kaspersky security products.

At the very least, place a router between you and the Internet and turn on all the security settings. That way, the only information someone might get from you is what the Internet service provider can provide, i.e. subscriber info.

It is possible to break into these routers, which is why you can setup your own "router" using a dedicated Linux system computer. Very, very secure. But not for everyone as it requires in depth knowledge of network protocols, topology and Linux.

Legal Disclaimer: The information provided is general and intended for "newbies." The discussion is current as of November 2009. It is impossible to have a totally secure system so it is critical to have your important files backed up.

differences between these different items but the common thread is ...

Someone has control over your computer.

This is bad. A key-logger can record your password and banking information. A virus will try to attach itself to your e-mails, your computer might be part of a zombie network.

This is just a tip of the iceberg of badness.

You should also make sure that your computer software is up-to-date.

Many threats will use a weakness in the program to gain access to your machine.

Microsoft will update its software on the second Tuesday of every month.

Sometimes there is a large update and your computer will be running very slowly as the updates download and install.

Secunia software checker and Filehippo software update checkers are useful for non-Microsoft programs like Adobe, Firefox, etc. They will scan your computer and tell you if there is a revised program which you can download.

Another useful program is Belarc Advisor. It will do an audit of your PC and post the result in your browser window. It will tell you if you have missed any key Microsoft security updates.



## Running a lean computer

Malware needs a place to hide. If you have a machine with lots of old programs that you don't use you might want to clear them out. Even your casual internet surfing generates a lot of temporary files. Using a program like Crap Cleaner is useful as it clears out a lot of clutter so the anti-virus scanners will run faster.

You have to be aware and become pro-active

I have seen a lot of compromised systems where the problem was identified and then ignored. (Usually teenagers closing error messages resulting in massive spy-bot invasions). If you see an error message, maybe write it down and google it and see what others have found. You should also avoid wandering into "dangerous territory." WareZ programs (hacked computer programs) are famous for adding a virus to their wares.

## Passwords and Backup

### Passwords

Sooner or later you will have to secure "something" on your computer, be it your screensaver, router, hotmail account, your dating service, or more importantly your banking information. The password is intended to limit access to the particular program or device, so don't write your password on a post it note attached to your computer screen, or on the desk blotter or give it to your kids or co-worker.

Now there are people on the internet who would like to find your password, let's call them "Crackers." The motivation for finding out your password ranges from the "challenge of figuring it out" to the creep who wants to read your email to the professional thief who wants to clean out your PayPal account. Most of the work is done by computer programs so the "Cracker" can scan many computers in the hope that there will be a few with the doors left open. (There always are a few.)

So it is important to have a pretty good password that isn't easily "cracked" but still easy for you to remember and type in.

Also be cautious about opening emails from strangers that have attachments.

Concluding Comments

Being on the Internet involves an element of risk. Your best defence is knowledge and some reliable software.

Hopefully this article is a start. Computer security is a huge topic and it is continually evolving. Knowing your computer, using the programs suggested and understanding the reports and error messages is vital. Google a lot ... someone has seen your problem before and hopefully you can avoid more serious problems.

There have been studies made of what people use for passwords, favorites are "ASDF," "AAA," "1234," your kids name, special dates in your life, and "God," just to name a few.

Crackers can use social engineering and dictionary attacks to easily get past these passwords. Some programs like Gmail will evaluate your passwords to force you to make them stronger.

A good password has a mix of letters (lower and UPPERCASE) and numbers and maybe a ! or two. If your password was "bubblebath" maybe 6u66le6atH! might do the trick.

A good password should be easy for you to remember but difficult to guess.

It is a good idea to limit physical access to your computer or computer hardware as a Cracker can usually re-set the device back to the factory settings. There are websites listing the factory password settings for every device made.

Don't use the same password twice if you can help it. A cracker can break your screensaver password in seconds and it would be the first choice at your bank log in page.

Don't leave the default password active. Your router and computer may have a Guest account with the password "Guest." And don't leave your password blank.

## Backup

### Introduction and Key Concepts

The average computer user has heard of "backup" but their computer usually has failed before they got the chance to "back things up."

It is critical that you back up files that can't be remade such as the family photo album. It is also critical that you store the backup somewhere safe. (If your house burns down for instance.) And you have to ensure that the backup actually works.

Some people download their photos to the computer, burn a CD and have the best photos printed. If the computer crashes they still have the printed photo and they can rebuild the library from CD. If the CD's were stored at your parent's house then your data would be fairly safe. (Hopefully there isn't a flood or earthquake.) You also have to hope that your computer can still read the back up medium - remember the 3 and 1/2 inch floppy disk?

More adventuresome people might backup their desktop to their laptop, with the hope that the laptop will survive it's next drop.

You will also have to remember that burned CD's or DVD's will not last forever, and hopefully the JPEG format for pictures will still be around in 2020.

If your family photo album is small you might be able to put the backup onto an 8 GIG flash drive. Or if you have a large photo collection you will need an external disk drive.

Having two backups is a good idea. If your computer fails then you have two threads to recover your lost data.

### Backup software

I'm currently using SyncBack which is a freeware program and it allows for backup or synchronization. Microsoft also has a similar product.

If you have added pictures to your photo album you can run the program to just backup the photos that are new (an incremental backup).

If you have a laptop and a desktop and are putting photos on whatever is handiest at the moment then the synchronization feature is really handy as it looks at both sources and automatically copies the missing photos to the other machine.

Backup needs to be done.

Every hard disk will eventually fail and every computer will become obsolete. Hopefully your family photo albums will keep pace with the changes in technology. Having backups that work and that you can recover from is important.

# Strip Clubs

## Stages

The stage can be a dangerous place to be when you're wearing stilettos. Especially if it is the first time you've gotten up on this particular stage. You need to watch for holes in the floor, speakers that are hanging low enough to bang your head on them, hanging wires from the lighting, and slippery or sticky spots where you step.

Stages with floor lighting are quite slippery in spots. An otherwise safe stage can become hazardous after a performance with candles or oils. Don't feel bad if you need to walk off a stage and explain to the DJ that it is too slippery to perform on.

Stages that are covered in carpet can be difficult to dance on in heels. It takes a bit of getting used to. Your heels may snag on torn parts of the carpet, so be careful.

Don't allow customers to place their drinks or belongings on the edge of the stage, where you might trip over them. If a customer is belligerent and you feel safe enough to do it, simply take the item away and put it at the back of the stage until the end of your show.

In Alberta and some other places, it is customary for patrons to engage in the "loonie/twonie" toss. Sometimes this is done to tip the performer for her standard performance. Other times, a performer may play games with the audience so they can win posters and other promotional items if they have good aim. This practice can be dangerous if patrons throw the coins too hard, heat them up causing the performers to be burned by the coins, or hitting the performers in vulnerable places on their bodies.

## Hotel Rooms & Accommodations

Dancers are often provided with accommodations in the adjoining hotel of the club where they are working. In other situations, you may have a dancer suite or house with your own bedrooms but shared kitchen and bathrooms.

Depending on the club, you will either pay for your accommodations or they'll be free. Some clubs will have a housekeeping fee or other ways to reduce your paycheque. It's good to ask ahead of time if the club has any extra fees.

You may be expected to share a room. This can be problematic if one of you smokes and the other doesn't, or if you have a private health problem that is hard to hide in a shared room. If it's not a good fit, you could be in for a really bad week.

To avoid such risks, ask your agent or the club before booking a gig if you will get your own room. If not, you could ask about paying extra for your own room.

Your agent might tell you who else is working so you can avoid sharing a room with someone you don't get along with. You could also ask a friend to work that gig with you and share the room together. Or you could turn down the booking altogether.

Do not answer the door unless you know who is on the other side and trust them implicitly. This includes bar-staff.

## Security

Some clubs have not changed the locks to the accommodations for their dancers in years, if ever. There's been many occasions when dancers have had complete strangers walk into their rooms, or had their belongings stolen from their hotel rooms or the change rooms while they are performing.

Let the clubs know if anything like that happens to you and advise them to change their locks. If you do not feel safe, consider leaving. You could rent your own room in the same hotel, or at another nearby hotel. Or you could risk getting blacklisted for a while and walk out on the gig. Your safety is more important than your paycheque.

Be aware that some accommodations do not provide telephones. If you have a cell phone, keep it charged at all times. Remember that even a cell phone that does not have service can be used to call 911 as long as it is charged.

## Cleanliness

Some hotel rooms are very clean, and others should be condemned. Some of the worst hotel rooms will have mouse droppings, cockroach problems, or bedbugs.

It is a good idea to bring your own bedding along so you don't have to sleep with someone else's hair that is threaded through the hotel sheets tickling your neck all night.

You should also bring all your own toiletries, including toilet paper (in case theirs is like sandpaper) and soap. And if you like your baths, some cleaner and rags might be a godsend. Of course, you can always go shopping for these things in a pinch.

Some dancers have found allergy pills will help them get through weeks where the rooms have mould in them. You can sometimes smell mould - it's a musty, damp odour. Other times you may not know it is there.

## Fire Safety

As we all know, strip clubs are often run out of very old buildings that are not maintained. This means deteriorated electrical systems and smoke detectors that don't work. The fire risk in strip clubs must be high since so many clubs have burned down to the ground.

Be very careful with cigarette butts, candles, or anything else you are burning in your room. Unplug your hair appliances when you're done

with them. Keep your costumes organized so you can grab them and run as it's unlikely they will be covered under a hotel or club insurance policy. If you can afford house insurance, you can list your costumes for coverage and that coverage will extend to theft from a location outside your home, such as from a car or hotel.

## Pole

Keep yourself and others safe by washing your hands before every show. This will prevent hand lotion, tanning lotion, and sweaty palms from getting the pole dirty or slippery.

Avoid moves that cause your anus or vulva to touch the pole. This is a common courtesy among entertainers that is expected of you.

If you do a show that involves some kind of substance that makes the stage or pole slippery or messy in any way - clean up thoroughly after your show out of respect for the following performers.

Don't lick the pole. It is full of bacteria from the hands of numerous other dancers (and who knows who else when the club is closed).

Feel free to go up and clean the pole yourself before the club opens. At least you'll know it's been cleaned every day. Some dancers clean the pole before all their shows.

## Towel

Carry a towel or bandana when you're in the club in costume. Lay it down on chairs before you sit or on the laps of customers prior to lap-dances. This will reduce ass pimples and goddess knows what else.

## Blanket

Buy a blanket that has two different sides. Use one side for the stage and one side for your body, so you will always have the dirty side down. Wash your blanket once or twice a week, if possible. A blanket that will slide easily on the stage is a nice choice. Some dancers even make their own blankets with their names on them.

Avoid white or neon fun fur. The fur comes off and sticks to your coochie and glows. White also picks up leftover paint from paint shows and looks grungy in no time.

## In the Club

Watch your drink at all times. Even bar staff have been known to drug the performers.

# Travelling for Work

If you travel to work, here are some great safety precautions you can take.

- Have friends know where you are staying, who you are working for and what types of work you are participating in.
- Check in with friends frequently, so they know you are okay.
- Forward all emails from business owners to your friends to leave a paper trail of your work plans.
- Try to avoid hitchhiking. Or at the very least, don't do it alone.
- Travel with a colleague.
- Don't Leave Home Without It

We all know workspaces in this industry can be a little on the grungy side.

Many of us have shown up to find our accommodations more appalling than appealing. Here is a list of things to take on the road, if you'd like to make your stay as comfortable as possible. Don't leave home without it...

- Toilet paper from home (better than the sandpaper you find in most hotels)
  - Towels
  - Tampons, if applicable
  - Soap
  - Small cooler (for fresh fruit and veggies)
  - Bedding for a queen size mattress (you can always put it on a smaller bed)
  - Portable heater in winter
  - Hand sanitizer for rooms with no hot water
  - Hot plate for inexpensive meals
  - Phone cards
  - Teddy bear
  - Phone charger
  - Acetaminophen or Ibuprofen (try finding that in a small town at 4 am)
  - List of known contacts in the area you are visiting
  - Emergency money and plan
  - Mirror
  - Earplugs
  - Camping foam pad in case your mattress sucks
  - Crazy glue to fix boots (black permanent marker and black electrical tape are also useful for boots)
  - Scissors
  - Travel mug and teabags - hot water's not too hard to find and it's free
  - Kettle that doubles as a soup heater (inexpensive to purchase)
  - Plate, bowl, cutlery, a little bottle of dish soap and a sponge
  - Lots of dried goods for snacks
  - Favourite jeans, big comfy sweater and boots for your day off
  - Something that reminds you of home, a picture or clock or candle can make a lonely night better
  - Camera
  - Mini-sewing kit and safety pins
  - Pictures of your kids
  - Sage to give the room a little smudge/cleaning.
- Work items you don't want to forget:
- Costumes
  - Music
  - Promo
  - Wet wipes
  - Own toys or equipment
  - Safety supplies (gloves, condoms)
  - Lube
  - Make-up
  - Shoes

## Bedbugs

You should check for bedbugs before settling into your room whether it's a dive or the Hilton. Look for bedbug poo - dark spotting and staining on the mattresses. You may also see eggs and eggshells, moulted skins of maturing nymphs, and the bugs themselves, which are about 1/4 inch long and reddish brown, with oval, flattened bodies.

To reduce the chances of bedbugs getting into your suitcase, keep it off the floor on a suitcase stand or something. When you pack to leave, first inspect your luggage carefully and inspect every item as you pack to help detect any bugs or their signs.

## Air Travel

It's hard to remember all the rules about air travel, but there are some things we should know. For instance, don't carry on luggage with anything you don't want taken out for

If you find bedbugs in your room, wash all cloth items in hot water and detergent followed by drying on low heat for at least 20 minutes (or standard dry cleaning). Sealing freshly-laundered items inside a plastic bag should help keep any more bed bugs from getting in those items (and being carried back home with you).

Bedbugs do hide in the seams and under the material of cloth bags and suitcases. If you find you are always dealing with bedbugs, you may want to get rid of your luggage. If you are on the road and want to get rid of your luggage, you can purchase new luggage or garbage bags to carry your belongings home.

the public to see, such as big black dildos or granny porn mags. Sometimes it's just easier to ship big props or promo by Greyhound in advance.

### Luggage advice (from Air Canada website - airline rules may vary):

- For checked luggage, wrap personal items like toothbrushes and sex toys in clear plastic bags so that the security guards hands don't touch them (in case of an inspection).
- Pack all camera film in your carry-on baggage. Camera film under 800 ASA/ISO will not be damaged by equipment at the pre-board screening checkpoint
- There is a maximum of one lighter per person allowed, so if you have 500 lighters with your sexy photo on them, don't try to bring them on the plane.
- Pointy scissors are not allowed in carry-on luggage but you can bring them in your checked luggage.
- You can bring forks and spoons in your carry-on but knives must be packed with checked-in luggage.
- Strike-anywhere matches and bleach are not allowed in carry-on or checked luggage.
- Sharp items in checked luggage should be wrapped or sheathed to prevent injury in case of inspection.
- Handcuffs can go into checked luggage, but not carry-on.

Be aware of restrictions on any props you might be carrying. For example you cannot fly with gunpowder in any quantity. Make sure any props are clean and free of residue. Don't have anything for pyro shows in your luggage. Poi or fire wands should be clean, dry and free of residue, if at all possible. If you line the bottom of your suitcase with the wands (in line with the metal tracks of the suitcase) it makes for less questions.

Send large props, contest gear, and other supplies by Greyhound.

### Example of an air travel list by a Professional Dominatrix:

- One whip that has no metal on it
- One pair of work shoes - usually clear so they match everything
- One formal dinner outfit
- One track suit and runners for the plane/travelling
- Three squishy work outfits that can be steamed (usually lingerie that is dominant looking - i.e. bustier)
- Blow-dryer and curling iron
- My own rope
- Travel size steamer
- Some speakers (small enough to fit in carry-on luggage, able to charge an Ipad, and amplify music when working).
- First aid kit
- Health/safety supplies
- Cleaning supplies (minus the bleach)

# Working in Small Towns

In small towns the streets are meaner, the rates are lower, and the competition is fierce. People can also be very judgemental.

If you're the only stripper in a one-horse town, they will know why you're there and may treat you poorly. Blending in to the crowds will help you get through your stay a little easier. (Just bring your best throwback from the eighties and you'll fit right in.)

For trans workers, small towns can be downright dangerous. No matter who we are, our best bet is to smile and walk on by when faced with discrimination from others. And be very discreet about our work.

In a small town, we are more likely to run into a client in public - like at the grocery store - and we are more likely to have someone we know respond to our ad - like a teacher from a high school.

Small towns are sometimes very isolated. A few minutes out of town and you are alone on a highway.

Not a safe place to be if you find out your date is actually a predator.

Be aware if you are taking the Greyhound to a small town at night, you may arrive there and find that there aren't any cabs. Nothing is open. And you're all alone. Try to arrange rides in advance through your agent, or call cab companies ahead of time.

If you think your cab driver is sketchy, you can discourage him from trying anything by getting him to take you to a bank machine where he will be seen on camera while you're withdrawing money.

Not all rural communities have a stroll, so street-based workers may have trouble locating a workspace. There are also usually fewer resources than in bigger cities - less chance of finding sex worker organizations or needle exchanges.

While most sex industry workers say the money is better in larger cities, money can be good in smaller towns, especially when they are located near work camps or oilrigs. Being a new face in a small town can also generate business for you.

# Costumes & Supplies

## Costumes

To keep your costumes in good condition, clean them within a week of wearing them. Hang them, fold them, or roll them gently. And keep them separated in re-sealable bags, or on hangers. If you wear panty hose, keep extras with you in case you get runs in them.

It may be okay to clean some costumes in a washing machine on gentle cycle or in a mesh lingerie bag, but if you're not sure, don't take the chance. To avoid damage to your costumes, hand wash them, roll them up in dry towels to absorb excess moisture, then hang or lay flat to dry. Use light soaps, not strong detergents, to ensure durability.

Be aware that stains are often impossible to remove from PVC. So wash colours separately. And hang everything to dry. It will lengthen the life of your costumes.

An alternative would be to purchase a mini, portable washing machine. It works great for hand-washables and only costs about fifty bucks. It is also environmentally friendly, as it does not use electricity.

## Shoes

Some advice for getting the most out of your shoes:

- Use black electrical tape to hold black boots together in a pinch.
- Use black permanent marker to mask scuff-marks on black shoes.
- Get a grip put on the bottom of your shoes at a shoe repair place if they are too slippery. This is inexpensive.

## Supplies

Many agencies, bathhouses, and other sex industry businesses provide supplies such as condoms, towels, and sex toys for workers.

If you work independently or your agency does not provide supplies, this responsibility will fall to you. Supplies can get expensive, but some are available for free, if you're willing to look around.

Look for a sex worker organization in your area. This is a good place to get free condoms, dental dams, and lubes. Needle exchanges provide free condoms and lubes, as well as needles (for safe drug use and/or needle play). Some organizations also provide alcohol swabs and latex gloves.

Professional escort services may provide fresh covers for the bed, washcloths, and towels. Some will even include several kinds of liquid soaps, shampoos, and face wash in the shower; in addition to baby wipes, hand soap, mouth-wash and Dixie cups.

## Sex Toys

Other supplies include work toys, such as vibrators, dildos, or strap-ons. Make sure you use condoms on your sex toys to prevent STI transmission and for general comfort. (Some cleaners may irritate skin.) Tie the loose end, if you can, to provide a complete barrier. Then change condoms every time you change partners or the area of the body you are penetrating with the toy. Use plenty of lubrication to prevent the condom from breaking.

The best kinds of sex toys are ones that are 100% silicone. They are a little more expensive, but they last longer, they're hypoallergenic, and they're easy to clean. Many other toys are made out of soft, porous materials that are impossible to sterilize completely and put you at risk of infection even if you don't share your tools. You can tell if a toy is silicone by its smell - it doesn't have one. The smelly toys are the ones to avoid.

## Cleaning Your Supplies

There are various ways to clean your supplies depending on what they are. It is always recommended to let your toys dry (preferably overnight) before using them again.

### Boiling Water

Supplies made out of silicone, medical-grade stainless steel, glass, and polished stone can be boiled or put in a dishwasher.

### Bleach

You can also clean supplies in a bleach and water solution (one part bleach, ten parts water) which will kill almost all viruses, bacteria, and fungi. The solution loses its effectiveness after 24 hours, so make a new solution daily.

Use this solution to clean up body fluids on the dungeon floor, bathtub or other surfaces. After using bleach, rinse with soap and water to avoid burning your skin.

### Precept Tablets

For most supplies, you can put 2 precept tablets in 3 litres of hot water. Soak your tools in it for an hour before rinsing well with water.

# Pimps

If you are being pimped in a way that is abusive or controlling or involves trafficking, and want to leave your “man” (pimp family/trafficker), it can be difficult and dangerous.

You may have to return to work in a place where you will be found, harassed, or recaptured.

**Pimps have been known to do all kinds of things to workers who try to leave, such as:**

- Physical beatings.
  - Cutting or scarring a worker’s face.
  - Cutting a worker’s hair.
  - Holding a worker prisoner and bringing clients in for forced service.
  - Outing a worker to family and friends.
  - Stealing a worker’s clothes and possessions.
  - Waiting until a worker has made money and robbing the worker.
  - “Stripping”- Capturing a worker and removing all his or her clothes and leaving the worker somewhere public to be humiliated.
- You may be tempted to “choose” another pimp or pimp family when you need to leave an

### Cleaning Metals

Use a pressure cooker for supplies made of metal. Get the water boiling for 15 minutes and add a few drops of bleach. Another method is to use rubbing alcohol and water for stainless steel and brass.

### Hydrogen Peroxide for Leather

Leather items, such as whips, riding crops, and handcuffs can be cleaned with water and soap, using a bristle brush. Smooth on hydrogen peroxide, then let dry. Be sure to use a leather conditioner once the item is dry to prevent cracks and lengthen the life of your leather products.

Hydrogen Peroxide is also good for cleaning pleather and PVC.

### Storage

Store your tools in clean, re-sealable plastic bags.

abusive situation. Chances are a new pimp will not help your situation and as a former rival you may be treated even worse as retribution. Also, if you “choose” too many times you will become known as “choosy” or a “Choosy Susie”.

Remember, you are a human being with rights. If you try to leave and your pimp or pimp family/ trafficker will not let you go, call the police. Abuse is illegal no matter who you are and forcible confinement is a very serious crime. The police will be able to file criminal charges, restraining orders, and ensure criminal repercussions for anyone who harms you. You may experience some discrimination from police, especially in more remote areas where police services are unfamiliar with issues affecting sex workers safety. Keep your head up and don’t let them brush you off.

Street Code dictates that any involvement of police or outside authorities by an underground community member is “ratting” or being a “rat”.

Our code of honour is a result of criminalization and is important if we are to protect ourselves from enforcement action. However, in the case of abusive pimps or people who traffic in human beings, **we hereby state an exception to the “do not rat” rule.**

People who operate unethical sex industry businesses and pimps who make a living abusing and exploiting workers harm our entire industry. Any person who has been exploited or abused in this manner may and should involve law enforcement or outside authorities in order to protect themselves and the public image of our industry. Only when we have successfully removed all people who harm us will we be a truly stable industry.

If you are nervous about accessing police services, contact a sex worker support agency or social services worker and ask them to accompany you to file your report. Or ask a family member or friend you trust. See the “Resources” chapter of this guide for organizations near you.

### How to leave a pimp safely:

- Call a local (or closest to your city) sex work organization to get referrals regarding shelter, food, and safe spaces.
- Do not tell anyone your plan, as they may rat you out.
- Create a safety plan.
- Grab only what is essential, such as children, and act as though you are just going shopping or something that is part of your regular routine. Then go to a sex worker (or other) organization that can help you find a safe transition house.
- From the transition house, you can phone family or friends. If you want to relocate to another city, the support workers at the safety transition house, or a sex worker organization can help you.
- Try to remove yourself completely from anyone associated with your life during the time you were working for that pimp. If he finds you, there could be danger headed your way.
- Surround yourself with good people while you transition into a new life; even if it is working for another sex industry business owner, or another industry altogether.
- Remember that women can be pimps. It’s not just men, as most are stereotyped to be. And indoor sex workers can have abusive pimps too. There are all sorts of awful agencies that are abusive, and having a bad pimp is not limited to the streets.

## What if you witness Human Trafficking or exploitation of youth?

If you witness working conditions in which you think a fellow sex worker may be the victim of human trafficking or maybe an underage worker, PLEASE REPORT IT!! Most Sex Industry workers are working by their own choice but we all have to take responsibility when we witness the exploitation of youth or any person.

### You can report it confidentially through:

Crime Stoppers  
1-800-222-TIPS (8477)  
www.solvecrime.ca

Vancouver Sex Industry Liaison Officer  
Lynda Malcolm- cell 604-516-9854  
linda.malcolm@vpd.ca

Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons  
Robin Pike, Executive Director  
Robin.E.Pike@gov.bc.ca  
(011) 1-250-953-4969  
www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octip

## How do I recognize human trafficking?

- The trafficker beats or assaults your fellow sex worker in front of you
- Your fellow sex worker may seem reluctant or unwilling, under duress
- The sex worker may speak very little or no English
- The sex industry business is not located in a legitimate commercial property
- The workspace is dirty or unkept
- The sex worker has multiple bruises on their body

It seems the sex workers are living in the workspace and a person seems to be guarding them or collects the money on their behalf.

The sex industry worker appears to be under the age of 18 years.

We all have a responsibility to try to combat human trafficking in the sex industry. Unless we can identify and prosecute exploiters, we will never see safety in the sex industry.

# Screening Customers

*“Anyone who does not want to use condoms or other protection, those who try to get a deal, and anyone who gets mad at YOU because THEY can’t get it up... Stay away!”*

There are many ways to screen customers.

Here are some tips from sex industry workers across Canada:

## By phone:

- When you are first learning to screen customers over the phone, you may book a lot of undesirables or no-shows. But over time, you will find it easier to be a good judge of character over the phone.
- Don't make appointments with blocked/private/withheld callers. Tell them to call back from an unblocked number.
- Question them a bit and see how the energy is.
- Listen to their tone of voice. Is the speech slurred?
- Does the client speak to you respectfully?
- Typically, a good client will phone to ask a few questions and book a time. If a phone call goes longer than a couple of minutes, this is usually bogus. The caller is just looking for a chat buddy. It rarely goes further than that.

## Via Internet:

- Ask them to communicate via email and keep emails on file once you've made the first appointment.
- Only reply to well-written emails that at least try to sound like they are interested in seeing you specifically and aren't just cold-calling every pro in the city to see who will give the best rate.
- Use DateCheck [www.date-check.com](http://www.date-check.com)
- Good clients use respectful language in their emails and are more interested in booking a time than giving long-winded speeches. They might have a few specific questions. But generally, people of quality have already researched your services and do not need extensive communication.

## In person:

- Check whether or not they are under the influence by checking for slurred speech, smell of booze, and facial expressions that would indicate intoxication.
- Weed out the good customers from the bad based on the questions they ask prior to the service. Turn away customers who ask too many questions about why a certain service is or is not allowed.
- Check their reaction to price to see if they can really afford it.

## In General:

- Ask exactly what they want including questions like: are you interested in gentle, romantic sex or are you wanting a hard-core banging? Sometimes these conversations will lead them to disclose more about themselves, which is useful for screening.
- Get referrals from trustworthy people.

## Remember:

- If they want to pay you really well, it might be too good to be true.
- Different cultures view sex industry workers in varying lights.
- Always be on guard.
- Intuition is a powerful personal tool. It never lets you down. So listen to it always.

# Interactions with Police & Criminal Justice

## What can you expect if you encounter police?

Many people, including police officers, believe we are all pimped, trafficked, on drugs, and victims with no choice in what we do. They believe we are too degraded and exploited to even speak for ourselves, regardless of whether we are workers on the street, high-end escorts, striptease artists, or adult performers. The same is true of sex industry business owners and consumers, in the stigma that casts us all.

In a police raid there will often be no warning. Police will enter the premises in high alert. In exotic show lounges this is done by a show of force through great numbers of officers in uniform and carrying guns entering as a group and intimidating everyone present. In a raid of a micro brothel or massage parlour, it is a step up to where doors are kicked in, guns drawn, everyone is put on the floor and hand cuffed.

Supports are seldom provided and for the most part workers are treated like criminals.

These are standard operating procedures for Police Services and are intended to protect police from unseen threats such as guns or other weapons during an operation. Police,

as most of Canadian society, believe all sex industry community members are forced into working and so also believe officers will be at risk during raids as a result of organized crime involvement.

These can be extremely frightening experiences and can lead to emotional trauma for sex industry workers who are raided.

Remember you have rights!

Try to relax and not get angry, further complicating your situation. Free legal advice can be found in any region of Canada so say nothing and call a lawyer!

If you are incarcerated as a result of your arrest, remember once again that prison employees see you as on drugs, forced, exploited etc. Prison employees may try to give you medication such as methadone, which could be harmful if you don't need it. Be sure of any medication you are given and remember you have the right to refuse it. Being incarcerated can be extremely frustrating; but once again, try to keep your cool to prevent further complicating your situation.

## Are you the victim of a crime?

### Help is Available

If you are a sex industry worker and have been the victim of a crime, YOU DO QUALIFY FOR SUPPORT and YOU DO HAVE RIGHTS. No matter what you are told to the contrary, help is available through VictimLINK and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

Sex industry workers may feel frustrated when dealing with the criminal justice system after being a victim of crime. As sex industry workers we often experience added trauma as we are judged or devalued because of our

occupation and the prejudices of others during the process. Lack of education and understanding has made it difficult for sex industry workers to access Victim Services and the supports that are available for ALL victims of crime.

The BC Government has programs created specifically for victims and the information has been included here to support you in accessing these programs. However, you should be prepared for delays as some barriers still exist.

*The following information should assist you on your journey. Remember that you are strong, you are powerful and resourceful.*

*No one and nothing can ever take that from you.*

## **Dealing with the after-effects of Violence**

**If you have been the victim of a serious crime it is very normal to feel:**

- Overwhelmed
- Depressed
- Anger or rage
- Fear
- Confusion
- Numbness
- Shame
- Powerlessness

**Or do things like:**

- Use drugs or alcohol to cope and/ or forget
- Go back to work
- Take greater risks
- Withdraw and isolate

## **What can I expect to experience personally?**

People experience a wide range of physical and emotional changes over a short period of time while others experience feelings long after the crime has taken place. You may find that your reaction will change from day to day or from week to week.

Victims of crime have some common experiences. For example you may feel just fine and then suddenly you break down and feelings of powerlessness, rage or sadness return. During these times remember that the feelings will pass.

## **Triggers**

Triggers are things that cause physical, mental, or emotional changes within us such as a certain smell, sound, place, or person.

When the intensity of these feelings has passed, identify any particular smells, touch, place, and/or sound that may have set off the intense feelings and reminders of the crime.

Getting a sense of your triggers can help you avoid situations where you may encounter them. Involvement in the sex industry can mean that you will HAVE to return to places and situations that may trigger you. If you plan to return to work in the sex industry, it is wise to develop a plan to help you cope.

## **Returning to work**

Sex workers often have to return to the scene of the crime in order to continue to earn their living.

Where possible, try to make a return to work safety plan with a friend or a sex worker advocate that addresses any fears you may have and will help you plan in advance how to handle being triggered should it occur. You may want to create your own self-care plan; rituals and routines that make you feel safer.

Creating a self-care safety plan and making it a daily routine in your life will also help you cope with returning to work.

## **Self Care**

Self-care is not just a tool for victims of crime but for every human being. Creating a strong self-care plan keeps you healthy and increases your resiliency (ability to 'spring back').

What should you do if you are the victim of a crime?

There are many things to consider if you have been the victim of a crime. Your physical and emotional health is at risk and the decisions you make can impact your life for years to come.

The filling out of police reports and proceeding with criminal charges can be a difficult and painful process and as a sex worker you may even encounter people who are insensitive in their handling of your case.

Details of your private life may become public and your privacy compromised. The consequences of being "outed" as a sex worker can affect many aspects of your life both personally and professionally.

## **So Why Report?**

The safety of other sex workers depends on the prosecution of the people who commit crimes against us. Choosing to go forward with criminal charges will protect other sex workers from experiencing the crime that you have. Proceeding with charges can also change the way society and the justice system handles our cases.

You will have to be strong as well as patient but you don't have to be alone. An important step in dealing with the effects of a crime is to

talk about it with someone you feel comfortable with. Friends and family can be a great source of support and if you are uncomfortable with talking to someone you know, VictimLINK (see resource section) can put you in touch with over 150 victim service programs across the province. They can also connect you with a sex worker serving organization who can try to answer any questions you may have in regard to the risks and benefits of filing criminal charges.

## **Your Rights**

Knowing your rights is the key to receiving fair treatment throughout the criminal justice process. If you have been the victim of a crime, you have rights under the Victim of Crime Act.

The purpose of the act is to make Victim Services available to ALL victims of crime and to remove any barriers that prevent people from accessing their services. However, some problems do still exist for sex workers attempting to qualify for benefits and access to victim services programs.

## **What is the Crime Victim Assistance Program (CVAP)?**

This program is a resource that provides 'last resort' financial support to victims of crime and immediate family members providing that assaults are reported to community support staff, medical professionals or law enforcement.

Financial support is given for a range of expenses for injuries from the crime, some of which include the following:

- Medical and dental treatment and prescription drugs;
- Replacing eye glasses and clothing damaged during the crime;
- Counseling;
- Support for a child born of rape if you keep the child or pay child support
- Disability aids, childcare and homemaker expenses;
- Income support;
- Transportation to get to medical or counseling appointments;

If you are not on Income Assistance, this program does not require you to apply for those supports.

If you are present when someone close to you is killed or suffers a life threatening injury from a crime you can apply for things like counseling, prescription drugs, and transportation to get to counseling,

If you are a victim of a sexual assault, there is no time limit to apply for funds.

## **What is a Peace Bond?**

It is an order of protection made by a judge in criminal court to protect you against anyone. To get one, call 911 and ask for an "810 Recognizance."

## **What is a Restraining Order?**

It is an order of protection made in civil court against a family member or ex family member only.

## **Crown Counsel**

Crown Counsel Lawyers work for the government and represent the interest of the public. They are not your lawyer! They decide if there is enough information to pursue your case. This decision should be based on evidence and not your occupation.

If Crown Counsel approves your case, charges will be laid, there will be a trial, and you will receive a subpoena to appear in court. Keep in mind, sentences vary and are based on prior offences, personal history, and impact of the crime on the victim.

We strongly recommend that you access Victim Service workers who are mandated to provide you with support and options.

## **Victim Safety Unit**

The Victim Safety Unit works to ensure victim safety by:

- Notifying victims about the release or status of offenders;
- Providing victims and family members with travel funds to attend court;
- Making sure victims know about supports and have access to resources.

## **Victim Impact Statements:**

A Victim Impact Statement is a written report about how the crime has affected the victim, physically, emotionally, and financially. It does not include details about the crime. The statement is used in court by the judge to determine sentences. How the crime has affected the victim is important to share because crimes against sex workers often go unreported.

Crimes against sex workers have a real impact on our lives and the lives of those who love us. Ending violence against us must fall within the public interest.

A Victim Services Worker can help you write a statement or you can ask an advocate or someone you trust to write one on your behalf.

# B.C. Resources

## **British Columbia**

**Legal Services Society BC-Legal Aid**  
Outside Victoria and Vancouver:  
1-800-663-7867  
In Victoria: 250-387-6121  
In Vancouver: 604-660-2421

**Qmunity**  
BC's Queer Resource Centre  
<http://www.qmunity.ca>

## **Prince George**

**Prince George RCMP**  
999 Brunswick ST  
PRINCE GEORGE, BC, V2L 2C3  
(250) 561-3300

**New Hope Society**  
Sex Worker Organization  
1046-4th Avenue  
Prince George, BC, V2L 3J1  
(250)552-0890  
[www.princegeorgenewhopesociety.ca](http://www.princegeorgenewhopesociety.ca)

**VictimLINK**  
1-800-563-0808  
Victim's Services for all of BC will refer you to supports near you.

## **Abbotsford**

**The Warm Zone Drop-in Centre**  
2481 McCallum Road  
604-850-6533

**Prince George AIDS Prevention Program - Northern Health**  
1108- 3rd Avenue  
Prince George, BC, V2L 3E5  
Tel.: (250) 564-1727  
Fax: (250) 564-1743  
Email: [linda.keefe@northernhealth.ca](mailto:linda.keefe@northernhealth.ca)  
[www.northernhealth.ca](http://www.northernhealth.ca)

## **Fort St. John**

**RCMP**  
10648 100TH ST,  
FORT ST JOHN, BC, V1J 3Z6  
(250) 787-8100

## **Kamloops**

**AIDS Society of Kamloops (ASK Wellness Centre)**  
433 Tranquille Road  
Kamloops, BC V2B 3G9  
Tel.: (250) 376-7558  
(toll free in BC: 1-800-661-7541)  
E-mail: [info@askwellness.ca](mailto:info@askwellness.ca)  
[www.askwellness.ca](http://www.askwellness.ca)

## **Kelowna**

**Living Positive Resource Centre - Okanagan**  
101 - 266 Lawrence Avenue  
Kelowna, BC V1Y 6L3  
Tel.: (250) 862-2437  
(toll free: 1-800-616-2437)  
Fax: (604) 868-8662  
E-mail: [info@lprc.ca](mailto:info@lprc.ca)  
[www.livingpositive.ca](http://www.livingpositive.ca)

## **Surrey**

**Surrey Women's Centre**  
604-589-1868  
Bad Date Report Line: 604-583-1295  
[www.surreywomencentre.ca](http://www.surreywomencentre.ca)

**South Fraser AIDS Service Society**  
Surrey, BC  
E-mail: [malsah@telus.net](mailto:malsah@telus.net)

**The Naked Truth**  
<http://www.nakedtruth.ca>

## **Dawson Creek**

**RCMP**  
1230 102nd AVE  
DAWSON CREEK, BC, V1G 4V3  
(250) 784-3700

**RCMP**  
560 Battle ST  
KAMLOOPS, BC, V2C 6N4  
(250) 828-3000

**RCMP**  
350 Doyle AVE  
KELOWNA, BC, V1Y 6V7  
(250) 762-3300

**Surrey HIV Centre**  
Box 500 Surrey Main  
Surrey, BC V3T 5B7  
Tel.: (604) 589-8678  
Fax: (604) 583-8848  
E-mail:  
[positivehaven@surreyhealth.bc.ca](mailto:positivehaven@surreyhealth.bc.ca)  
[www.surreyhealth.bc.ca](http://www.surreyhealth.bc.ca)



## Vancouver

### **BCCEC-BC Coalition of Experiential Communities**

<http://bccec.wordpress.com>

### **WCCSIP- West Coast Cooperative of Sex Industry Professionals**

[www.wccsip.ca](http://www.wccsip.ca)

### **Lynda Malcom - VPD Sex Industry Liaison Officer**

604-516-9854

### **HUSTLE - Men on the move**

For male and trans sex workers  
604 681-3044

### **Pivot Legal Society**

678 Hastings St East,  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V6A 1R1 Canada,  
604 255 9700

### **P.A.C.E. Society**

Direct support for sex workers  
Tel: 604-872-7651  
Fax: 604-872-7508  
Toll free: 1-866-872-8751  
Email: [pace-admin@telus.net](mailto:pace-admin@telus.net)  
Hours: Monday - Thursday, 10am to 6pm  
[www.pace-society.ca](http://www.pace-society.ca)

### **PEERS Vancouver - Exiting support for sex workers**

604 681-3044  
[pr@peersvancouver.org](mailto:pr@peersvancouver.org)

### **SWAN - Supporting Women's Alternative's Network**

604-719-6343  
[info@swanvancouver.ca](mailto:info@swanvancouver.ca)  
[www.swanvancouver.ca](http://www.swanvancouver.ca)

### **WISH Drop-In Centre Society**

Vancouver  
Phone: 604-681-9244  
Drop in centre 604-669-9474  
[www.wish-vancouver.net](http://www.wish-vancouver.net)

### **MAP Van**

Mobile services for sex workers  
Cell phone - between 10 pm and 7am

## ORCHID

119 West Pender Street, Vancouver  
Phone: 604-669-5567  
Email: [orchid@asia.bc.ca](mailto:orchid@asia.bc.ca)

### **Boys R Us Program**

320- 1290 Hornby St Vancouver  
(mailing address only)  
Phone: 604-633-4200  
Fax: 604-714-3478

### **Three Bridges Community Health Care Center**

1292 Hornby Street  
Vancouver, BC, V6Z 1W2  
604-736-9844  
Fax: 604-734-5918

### **Insite**

139 East Hastings Street  
Vancouver, BC  
604-687-7483  
Fax: 604-694-7779

### **Downtown Addictions Services**

569 Powell Street  
Vancouver, BC, V6A 1G8  
604-255-3151 Fax: 604-255-0314

### **Onsite Transitional Housing**

3rd Floor-Insite  
139 East Hastings Street  
Vancouver, BC  
604-687-7483  
Fax: 604-694-7779

### **Pender Addiction Services**

59 West Pender Street  
Vancouver, BC, V6B 1R3  
604-669-9181  
Fax: 604-688-9775

### **Aboriginal Wellness Program**

255 East 12th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC, V5T 2H1  
604-875-6601  
Fax: 604-875-6609  
E-mail: [aboriginalwellnessrogram@vch.ca](mailto:aboriginalwellnessrogram@vch.ca)

## Victoria

### **Greater Victoria Police Victim Services (GVPVS)**

850 Caledonia Avenue  
Victoria, BC, V8T 5J8  
250-995-7351  
[info@gvpvs.org](mailto:info@gvpvs.org)

### **Victoria Police Department**

Main Headquarters Building  
850 Caledonia Ave.  
Victoria, BC, Canada, V8T 5J8  
Front Desk Hours 7am to 8 pm  
Telephone: (250) 995-7654  
Main Admin Fax: (250) 384-1362

### **West Division**

500 Park Place, Esquimalt, BC

### **PEERS Victoria**

1-744 Fairview Road  
Victoria, BC, V9A 5T9  
Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am to 4pm  
Phone: (250) 388-5325  
Toll Free 1-888-733-7722

### **Peer Resources Victoria**

[www.peer.ca/peer.html](http://www.peer.ca/peer.html)  
250-595-3503  
1052 Davie Street  
Victoria, British Columbia V8S 4E3

### **Sandy Merriman House Emergency Shelter for Women**

[www.coolaid.org](http://www.coolaid.org) [click on shelter]  
1634 Store Street  
Victoria, BC  
(250) 383-1951

### **Aids Vancouver Island**

Street Outreach Services &  
Street Nurse Program  
[www.avi.org/Direct%20Services.htm](http://www.avi.org/Direct%20Services.htm)  
1601 Blanshard Street  
Victoria, BC, V8W 2J5  
Phone: 250.384.2366

### **Victoria AIDS Resource & Community Service Society (VARCS)**

[www.varcs.org](http://www.varcs.org)  
1284F Gladstone Ave  
Phone: 250-388-6220  
Victoria, BC, V8T 1G6  
FAX: 250-388-7011  
E-mail: [info@varcs.org](mailto:info@varcs.org)

### **Bridges for Women Society**

320-1175 Cook Street  
Victoria, BC V8V 4A1  
Phone: (250) 385-7410  
Toll Free: 1-866-896-3356  
Fax: (250) 385-7459  
E-mail: [careers@bridgesforwomen.ca](mailto:careers@bridgesforwomen.ca)  
[www.bridgesforwomen.ca](http://www.bridgesforwomen.ca)

### **Women's Sexual Assault Centre**

#511 - 620 View St.  
Victoria, BC, V8W 1J6  
Crisis Line & Info Line: (250) 383-3232  
Phone: (250) 383-5545  
Fax: (250) 383-6112  
Email: [vwsac@vwsac.com](mailto:vwsac@vwsac.com)  
Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 am - 5 pm  
[www.vwsac.com](http://www.vwsac.com)

### **Together Against Poverty Society**

#302 - 895 Fort Street  
Victoria, BC, V8W 1H7  
Phone: (250) 361-3521  
Fax: (250) 361-3541

## ***Trade Secrets***

[www.tradesecretsguide.blogspot.com](http://www.tradesecretsguide.blogspot.com)

## ***The Naked Truth***

[www.nakedtruth.ca/home.php](http://www.nakedtruth.ca/home.php)

## ***BCCEC***

***BC Coalition of Experiential Communities***

<http://bccec.wordpress.com>

604-671-2345

## ***WCCSIP***

***West Coast Cooperative of Sex Industry Professionals***

[www.wccsip.ca](http://www.wccsip.ca)

604-671-2345

## ***STELLA - Montreal***

[www.chezstella.org](http://www.chezstella.org)

## ***FIRST***

***Feminists for Decriminalization***

[www.firstadvocates.org](http://www.firstadvocates.org)