



In the Media

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SEP 29, 2010 by  Stephanie Dearing - 8 comments

Canada will oppose new ruling that allows bawdy houses in Ontario

A day after an Ontario judge issued a landmark ruling that struck down key parts of Canadian law that essentially make prostitution illegal - even though the profession is legal in the country, Ottawa has announced it will oppose the ruling.

Tuesday, Ontario Superior court judge, Justice Susan Himel struck down three key parts of legislation that impact on prostitution activities in Ontario. The [Globe & Mail](#) reported Tuesday those laws involved

"... communicating for the purposes of prostitution, pimping and operating a common bawdy house."

The [Toronto Star](#) reported the story with some slight differences, reflecting the controversy that has engulfed Ontario and the nation ever since Himel delivered her ruling.

Justice Himel imposed a 30 day stay on her ruling, giving the federal government an opportunity to weigh in on the issue.

Canada's Justice Minister, Rob Nicholson announced in the House of Commons during Question Period that Canada will appeal the ruling. [CTV](#) reported Nicholson was seeking to appeal the decision on the grounds that prostitution causes harm to people.

While some women's groups were [protesting](#) the ruling, female sex workers and their advocates were [celebrating](#) the decision all across Canada, even though the ruling only applies to Ontario. They say the safety of prostitutes would be strengthened because Himel gutted the legislation surrounding prostitution.

Arguments being espoused for and against Himel's ruling border on the hysterical because the issue is so polemicized in Canada. [The Interim](#) sums up those arguments, saying those against the ruling claim legalized prostitution opens the door to human trafficking will follow. Those who support the ruling say prostitutes will no longer have to be afraid of being raped or murdered while working.

Justice Himel was more moderate, reported the [Calgary Sun](#), saying that the laws created more danger for sex workers than they provided protection for the public. Sex workers and their advocates agree with Himel.

More than one sex worker support organization that the striking down of the laws sticks, reported The Province, allowing them to

"... move forward on labour organizing, having review boards and complaints processes so that we can finally weed out some of the exploitative people that do operate in the sex industry, and eliminate child exploitation and human trafficking."

The [Vancouver Sun](#) reported that a Conservative MP, Joy Smith, is working on making prostitution illegal in Canada, and had been working on the issue long before Himel issued her ruling on Tuesday. Smith has been working on her proposal for three years, and claims legal prostitution fosters human trafficking.

The website, Canada Fights Human Trafficking states:

- According to the RCMP, 800 to 1200 people are trafficked in and through Canada every year.
- Trafficking in Canada has consequences estimated between \$120 million to \$400 million per year and accounts for approximately 8,000 to 16,000 people arriving in Canada per year illegally. ("Organized Crime Impact Study," Solicitor General of Canada)
- According to CFHT's experience, victims are primarily Canadian Citizens.

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Whether foreign or Canadian the problem needs to be completely obliterated. Eliminate the demand, eliminate the problem."

A study released last summer shows prostitutes in Canada are at greater risk of harm when prostitution is criminalized, reported the [University of British Columbia](#).

The website, [Prostitution ProCon](#) lays out many valid arguments about prostitution and human trafficking, both for and against, from a variety of reliable sources.

Should Himel's ruling stand, it would only affect Ontario. The federal government has 30 days to appeal Himel's ruling.

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Toronto - A Superior Court justice struck down three Criminal Code provisions of Canada's prostitution law in an Ontario court on Tuesday.

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Toronto couple busted on prostitution charges

Toronto - Toronto Police Services charged a man and woman Thursday with operating a common bawdy house in an apartment in the Eglinton Avenue East and Kennedy Road area.

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Special Investigations Unit probing Ottawa incident

Ottawa - On Saturday morning, 1:22 a.m. Ottawa Police Service reported that the Special Investigations Unit (SUI) were investigating a death in Ottawa that happened during a police search.

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Male prostitution ring busted in Spain

A group of men from Brazil were forced into prostitution by Spanish ringleaders. The National Police spent six months investigating the male prostitution ring, leading to the arrests of 14 people.

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Switzerland Just 'Doesn't Want To See It,' Prostitution

First in Germany, now in Switzerland, you can find sex "drive-thru's." These boxed in parking spaces will provide seclusion for quickies and keep it from being seen by the general public.

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