

I'm in favour of zoning Body Rub establishment in the Industrial zones. Limiting there presents to these areas makes the most sense considering where we don't want them due to their universal reputation for attracting the criminal elements. We need to strike a balance between safety for the girls and the safety of our communities. As important as it is to get this right, we will fail the women if we think "the right location" is the magic bullet for the safety of these vulnerable and valuable women.

PTSD, a common and documented outcome of a life of prostitution is seldom caused by a criminal event during travel to and from a place of work. PTSD is far more commonly caused by the trauma of multiple men per day demanding their sexual fantasy, no matter what.

CBC radio's Tapestry aired Heather Barrett's documentary of her interview with former and present sex workers. One said: "I'm very good at compartmentalizing. My other self, she's the one who went to work, the one who did everything. And I just kind of got left in the back. Ok, I'll just wait here while you do your thing. And now coming out of the industry I'd pick cloths out of my closet and go this is not mine this is Marilyn's. Not that they are two different people, because they're not. But I'm finding it very difficult getting back to intertwine the two personalities I created for myself. How do I bring myself back together?" Many of our young women, even those who "chose" this work, spend a lifetime struggling with the occupational demons that weekly and for some daily trigger their anxiety and depression.

Body rub parlours are an oppressive money-making business that preys on vulnerable women by coercion, manipulation and threats for the purpose of giving toxic masculinity a venue to carry out their abusive fanaticise. Our greatest challenge is to protect our women from this abuse. This is where we need to put our concerted efforts once you have decided there they can be located. "The [parlours] that we have already aren't safe," said one worker CBC spoke with. "It's not guaranteed safe work environments, and it's not changing the unsafe work environments that are here already in St. John's," another added.

We will never see the deepest and most destructive wounds our most vulnerable endure, many for a lifetime. This is because their most damaging wounds are emotional not physical. It is easier to focus on the women's physical wellbeing, but we will fail them greatly if we do not tackle this issue two, three or four layers deeper than the physical.

Freedom Catalyst's fear is that some are listening to the rhetoric, deceptions and false promises of some parlour owners and the few girls who have "chosen" to engage in this high-risk occupation, and believe they speak for the whole industry. Our advocacy is for the well being of women who are prisoners of this industry. As the women trade stories (in this CBC report) a common thread emerges: "Getting out is much harder than getting in. And being in isn't easy."

As a part of this reportin,. Malone Mullin, a CBC reporter posted an acritical, Dec. 1st entitled *Wounded and Lucky*. I just can't get this phrase out of my head. No one in a civilised culture should be "wounded and luck". No one except those in the military, and police who keep us safe; and oh, ... clowns in the bull riding ring. Let's not allow "wounded and lucky" to be the norm or our acceptable outcome of this oppressive occupation.

We are all committed to doing whatever it takes to secure the safety of body rubbers. We will have to develop much stronger bylaws than any other city in Canada. Let's be a leader and make the emotional safety a bigger issue than any other city has done.

THANK YOU