

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, June 2, 2017

**RED UMBRELLA MARCH FOR SEX WORK SOLIDARITY
SEX WORKERS, ALLIES, FAMILY AND FRIENDS STAND TOGETHER**

On Saturday June 10, sex workers together with their allies, families and friends are coming out for our annual Red Umbrella March for Sex Work Solidarity. This our fifth year marching in the street, brightly dressed with red umbrellas! Each year we highlight a facet of solidarity and encourage the public to come march with us. Beginning at 2:30 p.m., the rally will feature speakers at the Vancouver Art Gallery (Robson Street plaza) and will be followed by a march starting 3 p.m. Speakers will be available before the rally to answer questions from the media.

This year, the Red Umbrella March for Solidarity celebrates 50 years of sexual freedom! Fighting for sexual freedom that is. It was 1967 when Justice Minister Pierre Trudeau introduced law reforms that would relax laws forbidding homosexuality. "There's no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation ... what's done in private between consenting adults doesn't concern the Criminal Code." This truth does not change with the introduction of money and gifts!

Since then governments and police have continued to harass and arrest adults engaging in consensual sex in private. December 2014, Harper's Conservative government replaced Canada's old prostitution laws (which were struck down by the Supreme Court of Canada) with much broader new laws that make "Obtaining sexual services for consideration," "Material benefit from sexual services" and "Advertising sexual services" crimes.

Clients and sex workers and everyone who believes in sexual freedom need to stand together! Laws that make buying sex a crime infringe upon our sexual freedom, in particular, the freedom to set the terms under which we agree to have sex. So, put on your best red outfit, get dolled up and let's show Canada that sex workers' rights are strong and proud and beautiful. March to demand our sexual freedom!

The Red Umbrella March for Sex Work Solidarity is co-organized by the following groups: Triple-X Workers' Solidarity Association of B.C., Downtown Eastside Sex Workers United Against Violence (SWUAV), Pivot Legal Society, PACE Society, B.C. Coalition of Experiential Communities, FIRST: Feminists Advocating for the Decriminalization of Sex Work, SWAN Society Vancouver.

Visit triple-x.org or our Facebook event page for more details. See also: "Why Buying Sex Should Not Be A Crime": triple-x.org/pdf/redumbrellaleaflet2017.pdf. High quality photos for print: triple-x.org/redumbrella