

Protection for All: Bad Date Reporting and Response Strategies

Vancouver, British Columbia



Project Report and Recommendations

Written by Raven Bowen

**With Significant Contributions and Support from
BC Coalition of Experiential Women & Community Members
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Foreword

The BC Coalition of Experiential Women and Communities (BCCEC) received funds to undertake the Confronting Bad Dates project which encompasses Research, Community Collaboration and Action to Reduce Violence against Survival Sex Workers. In this project we have explored formal and informal bad date reporting mechanisms utilized by four stakeholder groups: sex workers, community organizations, victim services and the Vancouver Police Department (VPD). This final report will be used as a tool for sustainability in actions chosen by stakeholders.

Through the Confronting Bad Dates project, the (BCCEC) pooled the knowledge and experiences of all four stakeholder groups explored what works while increasing the awareness of violence against sex workers and supporting stakeholders to develop new strategies to address this violence.

The recommendations from this document paired with outcomes from the strategy meetings and practices from other sex worker initiatives have supported the testing and customization of the bad date sheet and our exploration of a 1-800 line for reporting violence.

Acknowledgments

The BCCEC would like to thank the 42 sex workers and the 17 community organizations, VPD officers and victim's services staff who gave their time, energy and insights for the research component. Would also like to thank the 53 sex workers and community organization staff members who took part in the evaluation of the new violence sheet for sex workers entitled: "Red Light Alert". Special thanks to Kate Gibson Executive Director of WISH Drop In Center Society and Natalie who worked tirelessly on the new format and continues to document the violence against sex workers. We appreciate your emotional strength.

We would like to thank the Vancouver Agreements' former Women's Strategy Task Team for making this and many other projects possible and for their investment in anti-violence issues among women. Additionally, we would like to thank sex workers Sheri K., Beverly R. and Kelly W. for their contributions to this project.

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Section One: About the British Columbia Coalition of Experiential Communities

The British Columbia Coalition of Experiential Women & Communities (BCCEC) is a consortium of sex worker activists who work to eliminate the oppressive systems and forces that create harm for individuals in the sex industry. We operate under the principle that members commit to creating environments of inclusion.

We embrace diverse perspectives and experiences except where they contribute to harm to sex workers. The BCCEC does not support enforcement or rehabilitation models that either promote the continued criminalization of sex workers or sex worker dependencies on social programs.

Our Mission

The BCCEC is a mechanism for the voices of experiential people to:

- influence legislation and policies that pertain to sex workers to become inclusive of their goals and desires;
- advocate for a continuum of peer driven programs, initiatives and services.

The BCCEC may also serve as a:

- consultative body of expertise on sex work issues;
- host organization for sex worker workshops, events and initiatives; and
- research and data collection body for enhanced knowledge development on sex industry issues.

Philosophy and Guiding Principles

The BCCEC:

- supports and promotes experiential leadership;
- supports the development of essential services and a continuum of services for active sex workers through class advocacy, media response and public awareness;
- creates a supportive network for sex worker activists to have opportunities for leadership and action on issues that impact their lives and the well being of their communities;
- works to ensure the fundamental recognition of human rights and harm reduction for sex workers including dignity, safety, equality, and empowerment.

Guiding Principles:

The following Guiding Principles reflect the collective and longstanding activism of BCCEC members who will continue to work to eradicate racism, poverty, sexism, and violence by every practical means. BCCEC principles are built on our experiential analysis of sex work issues and are intended to advance dialogue and activism within the coalition and within our communities.

- We value, embrace and mobilize the authentic experiential knowledge, leadership and skill sets of women in the sex trade as the vehicle for change;
- We work to ensure opportunities for self-advocacy among people in and from the sex industry;
- We work to open dialogue for the reduction of harm and the elimination of the social, economic, and political conditions that lead to the survival sex trade, sexual slavery and trafficking in persons;

- We provide access to our expertise and our published materials to stakeholders in the BC region and beyond!

Section Two: Project Background:

The Confronting Bad dates project is based in an action oriented research approach which is committed to creating outcomes that have immediate and positive impacts on the lives of sex workers. This project will yield a fully operational, collaborative and coordinated bad date reporting/response mechanism for use in Vancouver through the following goals:

Goal One: to consult with active sex workers, law enforcement and community organizations to evaluate Bad date reporting mechanisms, response policies and practices related to sex worker violence.

Goal Two: to open dialogue and forge relationships with law enforcement and other protective agencies or emergency responders (doctors, nurses and councillors) to broaden the scope of their activities, increase awareness of sex worker related barriers to reporting violence and explore further collaboration.

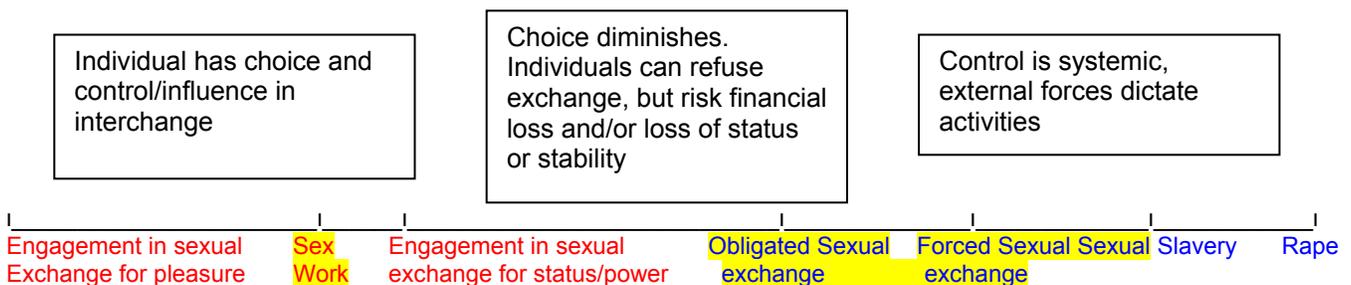
Goal Three: to develop and test the effectiveness of a new, customized or combined mechanism to increase Bad date reportability and responsiveness.

Goal Four: to ensure access to Bad date reports for all sex workers through organized distribution and internet sites to enhance their ability to add information about a date they might recognize.

Goal Five: to make portable any mechanism(s), tool(s) or strategies developed and tested to other comparable communities for further evaluation and testing.

The Continuum of Sexual Exchange:

The BCCEW/C has developed the Continuum of Sexual Exchange (draft) below intending to acknowledge where projects supported are focussed and to illustrate the breadth of sexual exchange. This project will be focussed in the highlighted areas.



Section Three: Major Activities

- Worked with sex workers within and outside of the BCCEC to design and conduct research among 4 stakeholder groups;
- Broadly distributed Discussion Document entitled “Bad Date Reporting and Response: Experiences and Insights from Sex workers and Community Stakeholders” sharing findings from research phase;
- Recommendations out of the research were used to frame the community consultations. The Report recommendations were as follows:

Recommendation	Action
<p>1. Increase the BDS distribution sites to include the recommended venues as put forth by respondents. In addition, monitor the sites to ensure reports are current.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stakeholders expanded distribution list housed at WISH Drop In Center Society and agreed that this organization is to be the major point of electronic distribution of the BDS as well as the primary distributor of hard copies through the Mobile Access Project; ▪ The Make it your Gig Return your Rig drop boxes were also highlighted as areas where BDS could be distributed and updated however, this would require that active or former sex workers be hired to do this work. Additionally, only workers who use rigs would access these sheets and drop box locations may not be safe to access.
<p>2. Implement BDS formatting recommendations to include four areas of key information (as put forward by respondents); address literacy concerns by implementing strategies put forward such as bold/enlarged type, laymen’s English, less words and more visuals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Various BDS templates were created with various formats, font sizes, styles and accessibility; ▪ The BDS was also renamed many times. For example the sheet was named “Safe Streets Sheets” however this title excluded off street sex workers. “Red Alert” was also chosen, however this is the name of a local gang and had to be changed again to “Red Light Alert” a title chosen by sex workers in the second community meeting; ▪ It was recommended that the sheet be distributed electronically by WISH and that all email lists be collapsed to eliminate cross postings. Currently PACE Society and WISH have separate electronic distribution lists that have been updated to avoid cross posting and to keep recipients confidential
<p>3. Implement standard reporting requirements and practice between sex worker & law enforcement, sex worker & victim’s service, and sex worker & service provider, to ensure the safety and respect of the sex worker.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Based on recommendations from the initial research and the first community meeting, WISH Drop In Center Society has included car logos as part of their bad date reporting forms. This has enabled increased accuracy by sex workers reporting violence involving vehicles; ▪ The Vancouver Police Department had already been working with community organizations and sex workers on Third Party Reporting forms. BCCEC members met with law enforcement officers prior to the implementation of the research and exchanged information on our projects. Violence reporting forms have been standardized among community organizations based on the work of WISH Drop In Center Society. Although forms used by community organizations and law enforcement differ, relationships have been strengthened through the work of both parties and these relationships ensure that information is received by law enforcement if sex

	<p>workers choose;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initial research found that there was no meaningful relationship between sex workers and Victim Services. Additionally, Victim service resources were largely unknown and/or inaccessible to sex workers. As a result of the research, the BCCEC has been supported by Victim Services bridge this gap. A brochure entitled “The 411” was developed and peer reviewed by sex workers, which provides information to sex workers about what to do if they become a victim of violence; what supports and compensations are available to them as victims; and how to access these resources. (This document will be made public by October 2007); ▪ Additionally, with the support of Victim Services, the BCCEC hosted workshops on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder provided by a renowned psychologist. These workshops supported all involved in recognizing PTSD symptoms among sex workers and have inspired future collaboration.
<p>4. Develop 1-800 bad date line strategy and potential internet reporting procedure to include a current/former sex worker planning caucus, reporting protocols for person reporting and phone intake worker, information dissemination strategy and evaluation tool.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Based on initial exploration of 1-800 lines for sex workers in Canada and the USA, two options were identified 1) create an autonomous line based the best practices of the Portland Hotline or 2) partner with an existing crisis line provider and expand their services to cater to sex worker victims. See Section 10 for full report;
<p>5. Develop in-person debriefing processes for after a bad date has been reported. This may include a team of individuals who work 24hrs on call.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was recognized that existing outreach and support services provide debriefing supports to sex workers however, none are available or on call 24/7. Feasibility of such an initiative has not been fully explored. The expansion of the Mobile Access Project to 24 hours would provide continuous support to on street workers, however off street workers would need a comparable level of service.
<p>6. Continue to work around sensitizing law enforcement, victim services and community organizations on issues around sex work and survival sex work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Projects like this one that rely on collaboration of all relevant stakeholders ensures opportunities for sensitizing and exchanging information and expertise.

Major Activities Continued...

- Organized and held initial community meeting inclusive of all four stakeholder groups;
- Based on suggestions of initial community group, the BCCEC developed new Bad Date Sheet templates and opened dialogue with United Way and 211, Information Services BC and the Crisis Centre;
- A second community meeting was held in which a Bad Date Sheet design was chosen; a new name was chosen “Red Light Alert”; a partnership with WISH was established to test the new coloured and reformatted sheets; and the 1-800 line options were discussed;
- Distribution of the new Red Light Alert sheet took place June/July 2007;
- An evaluation of the new sheet took place July/August 2007

Section Four: Outcomes

This section includes:

- Initial feedback from research with community organizations about their knowledge of the former Bad Date Sheet;
- The strategy used to standardize violence reporting forms among community organizations;
- The initial and subsequent 1-800 line exploration/feasibility reports;
- The evaluation of the new “Red Light Alert” sheet.
- The previous Bad Date Sheet and current “Red Light Alert” sheets

(1) Bad Date Sheet Inquiry among Community Organizations Summary Report

By: Sheri K.

December 17th, 2006 ****change to 3rd person

To broaden the scope and distribution of Bad Date information, I contacted 83 community organizations throughout Vancouver receiving a contact name and email address from each. I believe it is very important and essential to keep contact lists updated. Many positions in organizations are continually in a state of flux, the result is Bad Date reports are not consistently posted or seen by sex workers who it would directly benefit.

The three major questions I asked them were:

1. Do you receive Bad Date reports or want to consistently receive them?
2. Do you have available Bad Date report questions?
3. Are you aware of the 3rd. party reporting procedures?
4. How do you generally report violence? (the procedures and protocols).

This contractor was not very surprised that many organizations did not consistently receive Bad Date reports and virtually have no standard questions to follow to report Bad Dates. Some organizations stated that there was a bulletin board and women could write their version of a bad date and post it. She believed that many pertinent details of the bad date are then missed, perhaps the posting is not noticed at all and once again important reports may fall through the cracks. Another interesting factor is there are no real standards or strategies in place when it comes to reporting violence and realizing that many organizations must be sensitive regarding consent and confidentiality. When asked the 4th question she felt that many did not want to provide that information. She stated “[I felt] I was stepping on people’s toes, that I was seeking information that was confidential or personal. Certainly many organizations were indeed very vague with their answers”. Perhaps definite structures, protocols or procedures in this matter are not top priorities. This is understandable because of the limited manpower and funding that each organization struggles with.

(2) Draft Strategy Implemented for Standardizing Reports of Violence Incidents and the Redesign and Distribution of the new Violence Sheets

By Danièle Hurley

Create violence reporting form – standardize reporting requirements and practice between all stakeholders. Information gathered from participants identified the need to have one form available at all organizations/services to use when documenting a bad date report. Questions should be reflective of the information provided on the bad date sheets. This form needs to be as simple as possible with as many multiple choice options to assist the injured party in providing the necessary information needed to keep all sex workers safe from the perpetrator and future assaults.

Key pieces of information for sheet:

Who is the injured party -- sex workers believe that the most dangerous perpetrators select victims based on physical traits so listing whether they were a man, women, transgender or underage is significant.

Perpetrator description – (facial features, tattoos, all identifiable information that change less often),

Vehicle description including license plate number – Sex workers noted that license plate numbers are purposely listed incorrectly and that this information is important to prevent sex workers from engaging with the individual in question. Graphic vehicle descriptions and pictures were expressed as a need.

Details of the incident – while this was noted as important, many sex workers shared their dissatisfaction with the way the information is presented, the details and the amount of text. Some sex workers feel triggered by the details and purposely avoid BD sheets. The need to highlight high-risk offenders; furthermore, the weapons used is also important information for sex workers.

MO (modus operandi) – what set off the perpetrator, body language and anything that stood out for the sex worker that may give the perpetrator away and tip off other sex workers.

Location – in recognizing that clients are transient, it is important to list location as well as where the client took them.

Updates and Distribution

Not all bad dates are reported when they happen. Currently the bad date sheet is updated by Wish Drop In Centre Society when new reports are received. Sex workers deemed a weekly distribution of the sheet as sufficient. Bad date sheets available online are updated within 24 hours of receiving the report. Sex workers did express a concern on how web based information would be verified and noted that organizations or a group of sex workers should be the only ones able to post on the site after receiving reports from sex workers.

Web Based access – the bad date sheet is currently available through password protection at www.wish-vancouver.net.

Surrey Girlz posts bad client reports on their website which can be viewed publicly at www.surreygirlz.bravehost.com

Mobile Services and Sex Worker Organizations – Bad date sheets are available at all three sex workers organizations in Vancouver as well as [surreygirlz](http://surreygirlz.com). MAP distributes bad date sheets to sex workers on track (stroll, boys town, corner)

Places and locations bad date sheet need to be available:

On Stroll (track, corner, boys town), sex shops, medical clinics, street nurses, hotel bulletins, safe injection site, community centers, recovery houses, social service offices, bars and clubs (washrooms), rig boxes, on police officers.

*Sex workers ultimately want to see sheets located where they frequent as well as sheets available on the service provider's, advocates and supports that they come into contact with on the street. Future partnerships with the VPD could possibly strengthen the severed relationships between sex workers and law enforcement. When sheets are available from beat cops, vice squad, kiddy car, etc...sex workers will see the officers taking these incidents of violence seriously and this will ultimately continue to strengthen these relationships.

*Sex workers role – sex workers acknowledged that the role they play in reporting is a primary one. This role has the potential to be strengthened through the inclusion of sex workers in distribution and reporting process. Creating positions within the organization that currently distributes the sheets would be crucial to fostering ownership and responsibility within the sex worker community as well as provide skills building and employment opportunities. These positions would ideally increase the amount of reports received and contribute positively to sex workers watching out for each other. Direct connection to sex workers when making reports would reflect on the immediate reporting of incidents when they occur.

Renaming of the “Bad Date” sheet

Sex workers for the most part didn't mind “Bad Date Report” and said they liked the name. Those who didn't like the name felt strongly that it is disempowering and re-victimizing to refer to these violent offenders as “dates”. Some sex workers wanted the word “violent” included in the title. Having to choose a name that is not victimizing and triggering but empowering to the injured party was an honour and below are a few suggested:

FOUL PLAY (S) FOUL PLAYERS
RED ALERT
UGLY MUG (as used in New Zealand)
RED LIGHT ALERT*** Chosen
VIOLENT OFFENDERS

Contact with WISH Drop In Center Society

For over two years WISH has been the host organization and distributor of the bad date sheet. WISH society has not been given any funding to carry out this initiative. Currently the cost of the production of the bad date sheet is roughly 3 cents per page and does not include the cost of staff. The sheet is printed in black and white and wish does not have access to a color printer.

WISH is open to creating opportunities for sex workers to be involved and ideally sees the dissemination of the sheet as way in which to included sex workers. For example 2 sex workers are paid an honorarium to make outreach bags that include the violence sheets and other items.

Wish is in support of finding a format that works for sex workers and that meets all the needs expressed in the BCCEW discussion document *Bad Date Reporting and Response*. From the last strategy meeting with the BCCEW, changes were made to their bad date reporting form to include car emblems, pictures of vehicles, and descriptions of vehicles.

It was brought to my attention that some years ago in the WISH Drop-In, a flip chart and markers were available for workers to document violence as they needed and it would be available for all to see throughout the evening. It was expressed that some liked this process while others didn't. However, it got the information out there immediately for everyone to see and respected the workers privacy. This is also one way in which to respect the different levels of literacy.

Recommendations

1. Centralizing the electronic dissemination of the Bad Date Sheets and reporting form. Everyone who receives these documents needs to receive them from the host organization and if they are not on the database they may be referred to the organization to be added. This eliminates cross postings and that ensures all information is coming through in an orderly and timely fashion.
2. Logos and graphics of cars are on the reporting form and not on the bad date sheet. This can be overwhelming and difficult to really represent all makes and styles of vehicles.
3. To include sex workers in the dissemination process and to look further into the opportunities of sex workers being mentored and included in all aspects of reporting and production.
4. Work towards having sheets available from beat cops and other outreach services.
5. Resources and information to be available on the sheet relevant to sex workers and the community in which they work. In many cases this sheet serves as a connection between sex workers and community.
6. To acknowledge that violence happens to males and transgendered populations and find ways in which to strengthen those relationships and increase their reporting incidents. This sheet should not be gender biased.
7. Establish funding for the violence reporting hotline.

(3) Initial 1-800 Line Exploration Report

By Grace Howse
January 25, 2007

Project Goal:

- Identify key stakeholders involved in the development of the 1-800 line for sex worker violence reporting in Ottawa and interview for the following: development – who was involved; how did it come about; what is the overall operation plan; staffing; are sex workers involved, if so how etc.
- Collect news clippings, press releases and any other pertinent information from interviewed stakeholders that would support our advocacy for a 1-800 line in Western Canada.
- Document all findings for submission.

Research

Through Internet and networking we were able to identify three different services that were operating a toll free line for sex worker violence reporting. It was not easy to locate such services, as there are not many in operation. However each had a great deal to offer with many challenges and successes to share and learn from.

Interviews

Representatives of:

Ottawa Bad Date Line
Niagara Bad Date Line
Portland 1-800 bad Date line

They were interviewed during the months of December 2006 and January 2007. The questionnaire utilized is included in this report. A reoccurring theme was that a great deal of support will be necessary for the creation and maintaining of a toll free line. For example:

“In speaking with Constable Christie of the Ottawa Police Service, it became apparent that the support necessary for a 1-800 Bad Date reporting line was not only extensive, but roles were well defined. In the first few minutes of the interview, the philosophy behind the police supporting the line included a commitment to keep the line in place”.

Best Practices

1. Ottawa Bad Date Line

Interview(s) –

1. Inspector David Christie, Ottawa Police Service
2. Gena, Elizabeth Fry Society
3. Maureen, Operation Go Home Support Worker

Project Partners – Elizabeth Fry Society of Ottawa
Operation Go Home – works with youth
Sexual Assault Center

Philosophy – Regardless of statistical data regarding line use, the line will stay in effect as the reduced cost permits. The line is “one” means of “protection” for Sex worker.

2. Niagara Bad Date Line

Interviews – Constable Jan, Niagara Police Service

Project Partners – AIDS Niagara
Niagara Police Service

Philosophy – The line can be called toll free from Hamilton to Niagara at no cost. In addition, it is only “one means of supporting sex workers”.

3. Portland Bad Date Line

The rationale to interview the Portland bad date 1-800 line was based on the fact that the line provides 24 hour support. Sex workers operate and manage the line, unlike the Ottawa and Niagara phone lines where voicemails are recorded and monitored by the police. Unfortunately, when interviewing the bad date line support worker, I was unable to complete the questionnaire and establish other community partnership information as she had another appointment.

Interview – Salvina, Support Worker

Research Results– 1-800 Phone Line (January 2007)

1. What is the monthly cost of the line?

Ottawa Bad Date Line	\$8.00/month + 3.5¢ per minute for received calls
Niagara Regional Police Service	Yearly contract of \$800.00
Portland Bad Date Line	N/A

2. What service provider is the line operated through?

Ottawa Bad Date Line	Bell
Niagara Regional Police Service	Bell – NXX Line
Portland Bad Date Line	N/A

4. Who is the primary contact for the 1-800 line?

Ottawa Bad Date Line	Inspector David Christie, Niagara Regional Police Service
Niagara Regional Police Service	Constable Jan (did not record a last name)
Portland Bad Date Line	The line is staffed by a sex worker close to 24 hours a day. They are former sex workers who volunteer.

5. How long has the 1-800 number been operating?

Ottawa Bad Date Line	January, 2007
Niagara Regional Police Service	2001
Portland Bad Date Line	2000, on and off

6. How is the line promoted?

Ottawa Bad Date Line	Through the police providing sex workers with 1-800 cards; through E-Fry, Operation Go Home, Sexual Assault Society; key chains are given to the sex-workers (with 1-800#)
Niagara Regional Police Service	AIDS Niagara, police bureau, both provide information to the sex workers; key chains are given to the sex workers (with 1-800#)
Portland Bad Date Line	Through direct contact from drop-in centers, outreach workers.

7. How did the concept for a 1-800 Bad Date Line come about?

Ottawa Bad Date Line	The Niagara 1-800 line concept
Niagara Regional Police Service	Based on the needs of sex workers identified through AIDS Niagara sex worker program
Portland Bad Date Line	Sex Workers saw a need for the line (call was interrupted and interviewee had to go).

8. Were sex-workers involved in the planning and implementation of the line? If so, at what phase?

Ottawa Bad Date Line	Yes – E-Fry consulted with the sex workers prior to
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	implementing
Niagara Regional Police Service	Yes – through AIDS Niagara sex worker program
Portland Bad Date Line	Yes – from concept to evaluating

9. What is the expectation of the bad date reporting?

Ottawa Bad Date Line	No expectation on the part of the sex workers. They are not encouraged to provide statements. Police use the information to increase patrol areas and track predators.
Niagara Regional Police Service	No expectation on the part of the sex worker. Encourage a good description and leave referral agency info to support the sex workers.
Portland Bad Date Line	To meet the needs of the sex workers. To promote and empower sex workers work to implement own harm reduction strategies.

10. What does the bad date reporting, follow-up look like?

Ottawa Bad Date Line	Sex-workers are not contacted unless they indicate so. Follow-up includes entering info into database to be reviewed by crime analyst, informing police teams of bad date areas, vehicle/physical description
Niagara Regional Police Service	Sex-workers are not contacted unless they indicate so. Follow-up includes entering info into database, informing police teams of bad date areas, vehicle/physical description
Portland Bad Date Line	Sex workers determine whether they want the police to have the bad date information. The priority of volunteers is to support the callers through listening and providing community referrals. It has been established that the police are not always the appropriate authorities to have the bad date information.

11. How is the information disseminated?

Ottawa Bad Date Line	Information is submitted to E. Fry. From there they use resources to disseminate to sex workers.
Niagara Regional Police Service	Information is disseminated to AIDS Niagara – as per the original working agreement.

Portland Bad Date Line	Volunteers phone the information out to those who work directly with sex workers, male and female. Efforts are made to inform both indoor and outdoor workers of potential harm.
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12. What is the protocol YOU engage in when a call comes through from a sex worker?

Ottawa Bad Date Line	Dedicated voice mail to the desk of Inspector Christie. The info will then be added to a local database. Police will be informed of car/date/area description in order for police to patrol areas of interest.
Niagara Regional Police Service	Dedicated voice line for sex workers to report violent customers. The information left on the voice mail is entered into a local data base.
Portland Bad Date Line	The line includes a voice mail and a former workers voice. Bad dates are reported to volunteers. The info is then sent to other sex-work agencies, escort agencies, youth social programs, etc. The information is also issued to the police.

13. What is the ratio between male and female sex workers reporting bad dates through the 1-800 line?

Ottawa Bad Date Line	As of January 17, 2007, received 3 hang-ups. No calls as of yet.
Niagara Regional Police Service	Receive minimal calls from male sex workers.
Portland Bad Date Line	N/A

14. How do you evaluate its effectiveness?

Ottawa Bad Date Line	We haven't had to evaluate yet. Regardless, the 1-800 line will stay in operation.
Niagara Regional Police Service	Social agencies determine whether the effectiveness of the line.
Portland Bad Date Line	Sex Workers determine the effectiveness – both former and current.

15. Are community members permitted to call regarding the sex workers?

Ottawa Bad Date Line	No, not intended for any outside the sex trade unless it is for the protection of sex workers.

Niagara Regional Police Service	Implemented for the protection, not arrest, of sex-workers.
Portland Bad Date Line	They do – volunteers inform callers, that the line is dedicated to sex workers reporting violent customers.

16. If you could do things differently, what would they be?

Ottawa Bad Date Line	Don't know at this point. Continue to model Niagara line.
Niagara Regional Police Service	The line is always being upgraded to better meet the needs of the sex-workers. Maybe include a larger region.
Portland Bad Date Line	Done it sooner.

Considerations

Ottawa Bad Date Line

Pro's	Con's
Consulted youth group to promote line.	Area access only includes St. Catherine's area.
No expectation of sex workers having to charge date.	Voicemail is a male voice.
Input received from sex workers on the implementation of the line.	No written policy, only roles and responsibilities defined.
Community collaboration.	No sex workers or former workers on staff
Cost effective. Stakeholders dedicated to keeping line open regardless of statistics	No sex workers evaluating the line or advising on direction

Niagara Bad Date Line

Pro's	Con's
Increased the area in which the line can be accessed.	Relationship between partners is limited and does not include a lot of collaborating.
Cost effective	No sex workers or former workers on staff

	No sex workers involved in evaluation or advising on direction
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Portland 1-800 Bad Date Line

Pro's	Con's
Sex workers staff and manage the phone line	No secure funds available for the line
Sex workers are involved with development and evaluation of the line	The line has been suspended due to non-payment producing service interruption.
No pressure is put on workers to report	
Bad Date information is shared with a network of sex workers and helping organizations	

Recommendations

1. Social Marketing – ensure the plan (contents to include: implementation, sustainability and evaluation) is ratified by current and former sex workers.
2. Dissemination Plan – ensure bad date list is issued to appropriate agencies and done so timely and consistently.
3. Project Partners – define roles and responsibilities of all project partners.
4. 1-800 Access – ensure free access is available for outlying lower mainland areas i.e., Surrey).
5. Caller Support – ensure “support” is put in place for female and male sex trade workers who call in bad dates.
6. Evaluation – develop phone line evaluation tool in consultation with sex trade workers.
7. Police Involvement – should police be involved in the process, define their role.
8. Voicemail – provide female voice on recorded message.
9. Voicemail – ensure recorded voice is not a familiar one to sex trade workers.
10. Voicemail – provide referral information on recorded message.
11. Sustainability – learn from Ottawa line and garner community support and investment.
12. Internet Support – the three support lines interviewed do not include an internet support, reporting process, nor access. This may be one additional mechanism to promote the line or support the process.

(4) Setting up a 1-800 line for Sex Workers- Follow up Activities Report May 2007

By Trina Ricketts

The BCCEC recently researched three bad date reporting lines after 42 sex workers and 17 community organizations, police, and victim service staff were asked, among other things, whether they would support the implementation of a similar line in BC. The overwhelming majority of respondents were in support of such a line.

Three other 1-800 lines in Ottawa, Niagara, and Portland were engaged to determine the successes and challenges of their respective initiatives. This information was then shared at a stakeholder strategy meeting which involved sex workers, community organizations, victim services, and police in Vancouver on March 24, 2007.

The four stakeholder groups brainstormed about the 1-800 line during that meeting. A local bad date reporting line, in Surrey BC, was also engaged for the purposes of this report. This report lays out the groundwork for establishing such a line in Vancouver, BC.

Summary of Recommendations

The following recommendations came out of the research and discussions initiated by the BCCEC and range from the actual practice of implementing the line, to the sustainability and marketing of the line.

- Have sex workers staff and manage the phone line – this creates alternative income sources for sex workers, as well as improves the chances of sex workers using the line because they know they will get another worker at the other end of the line.
- Share the anonymous reports with a network of sex-worker-friendly agencies and sex work agencies, such as massage parlours and escort services, in a timely and consistent manner.
- Create an anonymous line, and do not put pressure on the worker to proceed with criminal charges – however, we should give legal information to the worker to educate him/her about her rights and the processes involved in legal action
- Give the caller a choice to report via voicemail or speak to someone staffing the line
- Ensure “support” is put in place for female and male sex workers who call in bad dates.
- Develop an evaluation tool in consultation with sex workers.
- Provide a female voice on the voicemail, but ensure that it is not familiar to sex workers in case some don't have a positive relationship with the person whose voice is in the message.
- Provide referral information on the recorded message.
- Garner community support and investment to ensure sustainability.
- Include an internet component to additionally promote the line and support the process.
- Staff must be trained to provide support, referrals, legal information, and be sensitive to differences among callers – language, culture, sexual orientation, age (specifically youth).
- Advertise the line in places where sex workers are likely to see it – for instance, websites that are frequented by sex workers.
- Have referral information for appropriate supports from police and victim services, to outreach support and health services. Attempt to ensure that all referrals are to sex-worker-friendly organizations and individuals.

Setting up the Line

1. **Establish a call centre.** There are two options for establishing a call centre.
 - a. Establish an independent call centre.

- i. An independent call centre could be housed out of another organization or have its own rented space.
 - ii. A benefit to this option is that staff would have their own space to watch TV, listen to music, read, or otherwise pursue their own interests in between calls.
 - iii. Ideally, this space would be donated by a well-established organization to ensure stability of the line over time.
 - iv. We will need telephone equipment and a service provider, a resource database, computer, software and internet service.
- b. Partner with an already established call centre.
 - i. Have one or two staffed positions where bad date calls will be routed to.
 - ii. We would design, hire, support, and supervise these positions.
 - iii. One potential negative to this arrangement is that some workers might feel uncomfortable working in the same space as other call centre workers, particularly when finding things to do between calls.

2. Set up the line.

- a. Call Telus to set up the line. 604-310-3100
- b. Get a business line (approx. \$30/month) and pay \$3/month extra for the 1-800 number
- c. Pay for all your extra features – voicemail, automated response, etc.
- d. We incur the costs of any long distance calls made to the line.
- e. To ensure confidentiality, do not subscribe to call display feature.
- f. Telus would set up the physical call centre too if we need phone jacks put in for one or more phones.

3. Set up CANTALK - optional

- a. CANTALK delivers service in 110 languages in 35 seconds or less. Language services include instant over the phone interpretation, document translation, fax translation and forwarding, and multi language operator services. (information taken from their website: www.cantalk.com)

4. Staff the line.

- a. Hire sex workers to staff the line
- b. Train the staff on how to take the call, giving referrals, providing phone support, recording the information, and other information they could best provide, such as legal information.
 - i. Information Services has offered to provide training on taking the call – listening skills etc.
 - ii. The Crisis Centre acts as an overflow line for 35 other agencies and would be willing to do so for us, as well. In this case, the caller would be asked to leave a voicemail message to report the bad date but for further support, stay on the line or push a certain number and they will be patched through to the Crisis Centre. Eighty percent of the calls to the Crisis Centre are people who just need to talk to someone who doesn't know them. We could offer sensitivity training for their operators at one of their 3, 6, 9, or

- 12 month check-ins with staff – many guest speakers engage with centre staff in this way.
- iii. The Crisis Centre has also offered to partner with us for 3-way-calls. If our staff person considers the caller to be in crisis but is not qualified to handle the call herself, she can suggest to the caller to engage in a 3-way-call with a Crisis Centre operator where our staff person will continue to be on the line and supervise the call. This would also be a great mentorship way to learn listening skills for crisis situations.
 - iv. **Note:** The Crisis Centre is confidential but not anonymous. If one of our callers gets patched through to the Crisis Centre or engages in a 3-way-call with the centre, we will need to ensure that their number is not available with this method, since we will offer anonymous services.

5. Promote the line.

- a. Advertise on websites and in publications that sex workers access
- b. Let organizations that connect with sex workers and police know about the line
- c. Create promotional materials that can be distributed to sex workers by MAP and other organizations
- d. Create a website to support the line and give information about it
- e. A media campaign to let workers know through the press (TV and newspapers)

Challenges and Recommendations

From interviews with Mary Prodanovic of United Way and 211, Isobel Curtis of Information Services, Amanda Bonella of Surrey Girlz, and Roger Kayo of the Crisis Centre.

Challenges:

Staff Training

Training is extensive and can be time consuming. Information referral and support is the sort of work which should be done to a prescribed standard. These standards exist already and include skills such as active listening, effective questioning, locating resources, crisis management and others. Information Services is willing to provide this training.

Scheduling and Overflow

Ensuring that there are no long waits or unanswered calls can also be a challenge in terms of scheduling and depending on staff. For example, there would need to be back up staff for sick days. However, if we had an arrangement with 211 or another line, they could take our overflow calls in peak times or off hours. Or we could depend solely on voicemail, which may be insufficient for some callers who may be in crisis.

Confidentiality and Anonymity

Confidentiality and anonymity are important to the success of this type of line - it may be difficult to ensure if the community is small enough that people can be identified from the question or facts involved.

Education and Awareness

It can be a challenge to get funding for education and awareness to promote the line.

Cost

Toll free lines are extremely expensive to run. The biggest expense is staffing, including a staff person to manage the scheduling, pay the bills and cope with problems that arise etc. The Crisis Line is staffed by volunteers, but it can be difficult to recruit volunteers. Also, many people don't like to work alone because of boredom (when no calls come in) or the stress of the work.

Recommendations:

Tracking

The Crisis Centre recommends tracking – taking anonymous statistics – during the calls. For instance, the Crisis Centre has a list of 15-16 criteria that operators tick off during the call. This information is anonymous, but is used to determine what the majority of calls are for and who they are from. We can use this information to improve our services over time and also to aid us in our quest for funding in the future.

If we get money from the government or United Way, we'll have to provide statistics and reports to prove that we are using the money as expected. Keeping the sort of information they need in a paper form is very time consuming.

Centralization of Information

There should be one line for all of BC to centralize the collection and dissemination (to the website, organizations, etc) of information.

Collaboration

Ideally, a collaborating agency would be a service which has a slow time at the time we are likely to be busiest (to maximize the efficiencies of space, equipment etc).

Funding

We need to determine funding sources and establish funding by partnering with social service agencies and women's centres, and approaching the government and organizations that have shown interest in like projects in the past. Some are: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Public Safety, Solicitor General, United Way (Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley), Glover Fund, Information Services Vancouver, and Western Economic Diversification.

Information and Referral Services

Referral – This can be accomplished by providing our operators with access to the 211 database, or by creating our own with use of 211. 211 will be on the web and free to all. Information Services and the Crisis Centre are also willing to help us with this component.

In terms of offering legal information – this needs to be specific to avoid any liability issues.

Legal Information

Create an educational package explaining the legal process in partnership with a lawyer, which can be read over the phone or sent out to interested people/organizations.

Training

Information Services has offered to provide training for staff, including active listening, effective questioning, locating resources, crisis management and others. We can also consider a partnership with the Crisis Centre for 3-way-calling support for callers in crisis. Other recommendations for training include: how to handle the info personally, what questions to ask, and ways to help jog the memory of the callers.

(5) Evaluation of “Red Light Alert” Formerly Known as the Bad Date Sheet

The evaluation of the new Red Light Alert violence sheet took place in July and August of this year which consisted of a broader cross section of sheet users than both community meetings combined. It must be noted again that the name of the sheet changed during the testing period from “Red Alert” which was identified as a gang. The sheet was renamed “Safe Streets Sheet” which excluded off street users. Finally, the sheet was named “Red Light Alert” which was a name chosen by stakeholders at the May 2007 community meeting. Respondents to this evaluation included community service organization staff and sex workers on and off street.

Stakeholders were asked: 1) *Do you like the new format?* 2) *Do you find it easy to read?* 3) *What if anything would you like changed?* 4) *Do you like the new name?*

Of the 53 of sex workers and agencies who provided feedback, 48 supported the new Red Light Alert sheet. Stakeholders were most impressed with how colour affected the sheets’ readability.

Comments in Support:

- “Love the color”
- “Easy to read”
- “Easier to memorize”
- “I like the new reporting forms because they include car emblems”

Of the 53 contributors to the evaluation, 5 opposed the new Red Light Alert Sheet.

Comments in Opposition:

- “Liked the old sheet better”
- “Cannot read sheet well on my computer”
- “Get rid of the grey background so black text can be read better”
- “Old format was easier to print”

Other Comments to improve/amend the new Red Light Alert Sheet:

- “Try to make it 2-sided to fit more violence reports”
- “Location of incident should be one of the top three items”
- “If a violent perpetrator takes a break from violence, he could be bumped off the sheet”
- “Reorient the sheet so that the date is on the side and the headings are on top;
- “Change the sheet from landscape to normal way”

Summary:

Overall it was challenging to obtain consensus on minor details, however consensus on major aspects of the sheet and the information requested by stakeholders was achieved. This is the first time that sex workers have been consulted on the design and distribution of a sheet that shares the details of violent incidents among them and other stakeholders. As primary users, sex workers as well as other stakeholders have been successful in creating a format that suits their purposes.

There are a number of formatting issues that need to be addressed in the final phase; however, we are well on our way to finalization of the Red Light Alert violence sheet. In addition to choosing the new name, sex workers at the second community meeting requested that “HATE Crime” be added to the tag line of the sheet. The BCCEC has done some previous research on defining and designating violence against sex workers officially as a hate crime (See “From The Curb” at www.bccewc.ca). This addition by workers is an attempt to define and communicate that the violence they experience because they are sex workers can no longer be ‘sugar coated’ or named by those outside of the sex working experience.

Section 6: Project Goals and Items Achieved to Date

Project Goals	Activities	Expected Outcome	Achievements
<p>Goal One: to consult with active sex workers, law enforcement and community organizations to evaluate Bad Date reporting mechanisms, response policies and practices related to sex worker violence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create Bad Date reporting and response rubric of Canadian and other strategies inclusive of Bad Date sheets. (Bad Date sheets and other materials will be collected and shared with local stakeholders) ▪ Develop introduction documents and consultation questionnaire for stakeholders based on research ethics and meet with groups to share the project goals and design. ▪ Finalize and implement the consultation questionnaire that will explore individual and institutional experiences with Bad Date reporting, formal and informal response practices used by stakeholder groups, sex workers lived experiences and the experiences of community organizations. Participants will also comment on existing strategies and how they can be improved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community partners identified and invested in improving Bad Date reporting and response ▪ (2) Sex workers working on this issue are acknowledged and engaged to create a Rubric of Bad Date strategies in other parts of Canada created for discussion purposes and to append the final report. ▪ 40 sex workers will be consulted to express current concerns related to Bad Date reporting ▪ Consultation questionnaire for stakeholders groups is developed that will capture the current activities of stakeholders as well as gaps and potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 17 community organizations participated in consultation; ▪ 3 sex workers were contracted to support the questionnaire development, create the rubric of anti-violence strategies in Canada and make initial contact with community organizations to access their knowledge and use of the previous Bad Date Sheet. One individual was unable to complete her contract therefore the national rubric of bad date strategies was limited; ▪ 43 sex workers were consulted regarding concerns with bad date reporting and response; ▪ Questionnaire developed.
<p>Goal Two: to open dialogue and forge relationships with law enforcement and other protective services to increase awareness of sex worker related barriers to reporting violence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a compilation document “Bad Date Reporting and Response Experiences in Vancouver BC” ▪ Broadly disseminate document among stakeholders and others identified by stakeholders for review; ▪ Hold a meeting of stakeholders and allies to build upon report recommendations and develop new or improved strategies for Vancouver ▪ Categorize short and long term initiatives; implement initiatives that require increased coordination but minimal new funds. ▪ Negotiate the implementation strategies that require funds beyond the scope of this project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft document for peer review that captures lived experiences and best practices related to supports for sex workers experiencing violence. ▪ Lines of communication opened and all are aware of barriers workers face to accessing protective services as well as assets available to make improvements and create opportunities for alliances. . ▪ Increased profile and opportunity for BCCEW members to engage in community development and human rights work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Document entitled “Bad Date Reporting and Response: Experiences and Insights from Sex Workers and Community Stakeholders” was created and disseminated in hard copy and online in March 2007; ▪ As a result of report recommendations and emerging themes, a community meeting was held in March 2007 attended by almost 40 individuals; ▪ Two strategies of the

			<p>redesign of the existing Bad Date sheet and the exploration of a 1-800 line to report violence were chosen strategies;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The BCCEC followed up on additional work and information gathering necessary for community decision making ▪ A second community meeting in May 2007 was held in which the Bad Date sheet redesign was finalized and additional information about the 1-800 line was discussed.
<p>Goal Three: Develop and test the effectiveness of a new, customized or combined mechanism to increase Bad Date reportability and responsiveness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support the implementation of strategies among stakeholder groups; ▪ Develop an evaluation tool and indicators for each strategy to be reviewed ▪ Evaluate strategies based on agreed upon indicators ▪ Evaluation findings fed back into strategies to improve initiatives. ▪ Develop “PROTECTION FOR ALL: Bad Date Reporting and Response Strategies in Vancouver BC” for review by contributors and finalize 	<p>Ideas that emerge out of consultation document as well as dialogue with law enforcement lead to the creation of new or customized strategies in named locations.</p> <p>Final reviewed document ready for public consumption</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The new Red Light Alert sheets were created with immense support and dedication from WISH and BCCEC members and distribution began in late June 2007; ▪ An Evaluation the new Red Light Alert Sheet took place july/aug 2007 ▪ This is the interim draft of the Final report –not all activities have been completed.
<p>Goal Four: Make portable any mechanism(s), tool(s) or strategies developed and tested to other comparable communities for further evaluation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Release “PROTECTION FOR ALL: Bad Date Reporting and Response Strategies in Vancouver BC” ▪ Together with collaborators, issue press release and otherwise share materials and strategies with other sex workers, organizations, protection agencies, senior government, political leaders and the general public. ▪ Develop proposals for the expansion of this project design and materials to other parts of the province for implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Broad dissemination of any materials, strategies, tools, evaluations and partnerships developed within the initiative. ▪ Tested strategies being implemented to reduce barriers to reporting violence and increase responsiveness from protection services. 	

Section 7: Comments, Recommendations and Next Steps

Comments on Project:

- Some stakeholders who were identified as relevant i.e. emergency services, rape support centers and anti-violence organizations were approached for engagement in this project refused;
- The 1-800 line is a tremendous undertaking and needs additional support and networking to be implemented, however this line remains a major suggested and supported strategy that has come out of this project. Preliminary work and networking has been done, but an investment is necessary to create an autonomous line or trained sex worker support staff working at an existing call center;

Recommendations for Future Projects and anti-violence work (From Sex Workers):

- Teach techniques for memory retention 'mnemonic device
- Have agencies host training for sex trade workers on how to retain memory relating to trauma
- The list is very heterosexual, usually contains no info for males and transgender. The on-line should have expanded details
- Create our own review perb: such as craigslist or have a separate section on craigslist where they advertise
- Redefine supports to sex workers to ensure that PTSD and its symptoms are the foundations of treatment to this population.

Next Steps to complete this project:

1. Negotiate with photocopier companies nation wide and businesses to obtain a color copier for sustainability of the new coloured Red Light Alert Sheets. Also negotiate a maintenance contract;
2. Make the Red Light Alert Sheets gender neutral and inclusive of on and off street violence reports;
3. Expand on and off street hard copy distribution where electronic delivery is not possible;
4. Follow up on electronic violence reporting via email or website;
5. Continue networking with existing call center service providers. Identify host organization and implement trial period for 1-800 line for reporting violence by prompted messages. This system could provide opportunities for callers to leave information like: date and time of incident; location of incident; vehicle information; perp description; if caller would like incident placed on next Red Light Alert Sheet; contact information of call only if caller would like Police or medical involvement; etc.

Section 8: Original Research Report entitled “Bad Date Reporting and Response: Experiences and Insights from Sex workers and Community Stakeholders” March 2007

Methodology

Questionnaires were designed for the four stakeholder groups and administered by BCCEW/C members. Members were trained in interviewing techniques and documentation. Participants were chosen from a list compiled by an external contractor of key stakeholders. All questionnaire data was compiled by a BCCEW/C member not involved in interviewing to ensure that contributors would be anonymous during data compilation.

Ethical Considerations

This investigation was conducted in keeping with research principles. The document entitled “Research Ethics: A Guide for Community Organizations” Bowen et al. was used to ensure that participants in this process would be protected¹.

Informed Consent

All potential participants were briefed on the background of the BCCEW/C and the purpose of the interview. Information about the project funding and the intended use of the information collected was also shared. Individuals were also advised of the potential risks and benefits of their participation. Additionally, participants were informed of their right to withdraw consent at any time during engagement.

Confidentiality

To reduce the potential risks related to participation, no names or identifying information was collected. For this reason, participants were not required to sign a consent form; however verbal consent was obtained from individuals before engagement. Those interested in participating in the strategy session provided their contact information separately and felt safe in continuing their involvement.

Additionally, to increase protection, all names of individuals were also excluded from this report.

Remuneration

Participants who identified as sex workers were paid for their time in interviews. Payment was provided in advance to ensure that participants were free to withdraw their consent rather than “holding participants hostage” and violating consent principles. Nutrition was also provided where possible.

¹ This document was created by sex workers and is based on the work and support of Drs. John Lowman and Ted Palys and is available at www.bccewc.ca

One: Findings from Interviews with Sex Workers

Please note: Sections Four and Five contain percentages, however our sample sizes are small and these percentages are not statistically significant. They are meant to reflect the proportion of our sample that was in agreement or disagreement with questions posed.

The terms: "Sex Worker", "worker", "participant", "respondent" and "contributor" are used throughout and interchangeably to describe sex worker interviewees. The terms: "Stakeholders", "Groups", "respondent", "participant" and "contributor" are used to refer to community groups, law enforcement and victim services.

Demographics and Violence

The 42 sex workers interviewed had 6 months to 40 years experience in the sex trade. The modal category (most frequent response) was five years and the average length of time in the industry was 15 years. Participants were asked how often they worked in the sex trade. The modal category was "every day", however some worked once per week or as little as once every two months. 60% of respondents worked on street exclusively, 21% worked both on and off street and 19% worked off street exclusively.

74% of respondents had experienced customer violence and 93% of those individuals reported this violence however, most reported to friends, others told other workers, family members and community organizations. 21% of our sample reported violence to law enforcement.

When asked if they felt safe reporting this violence, 30% of our sample did not respond and 33% stated that they did not feel safe reporting violence but that they did so because they had to for the sake of other workers. Others noted that they felt judged and stigmatized all over again and that they really wanted the perpetrator(s) caught. We asked those in our sample who reported violence what the outcome of their reporting had been. 52% of our sample felt that there was no noticeable outcome and in 11% of cases charges were dropped. Additionally, 8 participants had their report appear on the Bad Date Sheet and in 3 cases charges were pressed against the perpetrators.

We asked sex workers if there was any organization that they would not report violence to. 31% stated that they would report to any group as they felt they had a duty to report. One in four workers interviewed stated that they would not report violence to law enforcement, especially in cases where there is other kinds of criminal activity or the involvement of organized crime. Others noted that they felt law enforcement did not respond in a manner that has been positive and that it is not worth the risk. Participants also shared that they would not report a bad date to organizations that were not sincere in their mandates to eliminate violence; to organizations that did not have former sex workers on staff; and, organizations that did not have a culturally diverse staff.

Of the interviewees who had experienced customer violence and did not report these incidents, we asked what prevented them from reporting or seeking help. Respondents listed a series of reasons, some of which include:

- * "Dealing with police is not possible for criminals"
- * "I would be ostracized by other workers"
- * "My privacy and confidentiality would be at risk"
- * "I don't want to tell people what I do for money"

- * “Pride”
- * “Shame”
- * “I am not allowed to speak to cops ever”

We then asked all participants what needed to be in place to make reporting safer and they highlighted a wide range of services as well as strategies for workers. The availability of trained counsellors was the most frequent response. Their list also includes:

- * A 24 hour counsellor within a safe environment;
- * More than one Mobile van with staffed trained to take Bad Date and 3rd party reports;
- * More open-minded police;
- * A task force or team of individuals that can meet the worker where they are and share the pros and cons of reporting and walk the worker through the entire process;
- * A phone line to call that is confidential;
- * Maintain good relationships with sex worker organizations;
- * Workers should only service regulars;
- * An anonymous process.

We also asked respondents who should provide these supports and services. Most frequently, respondents stated that existing sex worker serving and friendly organizations should provide supports. Some requested a separate sex worker run service outside of existing organizations inclusive of trained peer workers who are accountable to sex workers and the justice system. Interviewees also stated that non judgemental doctors who understand trauma should provide supports.

Responses to Bad Date Sheet Specific Questions

In this section sex workers were asked questions pertaining to the accessibility, format and relevance of the existing Bad Date sheet distributed by WISH Drop in Center Society. This organization took the task over from DEYAS. This section also includes expectations workers have from the four stakeholder groups after a Bad Date has been reported.

Accessibility

Sex workers were asked the filter question “Have you ever seen the Bad Date sheet?” 14% of those interviewed had never seen the sheet. These individuals were shown a sample and asked to comment on format and distribution. Those that had seen the sheet were asked if they knew which organization put it out. 63% did not know or chose an incorrect organization. When asked where workers usually get the bad date sheet from, the most frequent response was the Mobile Access Project- Outreach Van. Others stated WISH, DEYAS, PACE and PEERS as sources.

We then asked participants if they ever looked for a bad date sheet and could not find one. 57% of respondents could not find the Bad Date sheet when they needed one. When asked what participants did next, all participants went to work anyway. The most common strategy was to ask other workers if they had seen the sheet or if there was anything new on the sheet. Some reported feeling panicked or afraid because they did not know who to look out for that night or disturbed because sex worker organizations receive funding and worker safety should be their priority.

Format

Sex workers were asked if they are happy with the way information is presented on the Bad Date Sheet. Less than half, 47% of respondents were pleased with the presentation. There were a wide range of reasons, some of which are summarized below:

- * The Sheet should include a sketch of the car type so that it is more readily identifiable;
- * The information should be condensed;
- * Some participants felt triggered by the level of detail about the violent incidents;
- * It is too protective of the violent perpetrators as the real licence plate numbers are never shared with workers;
- * Workers expressed concern with literacy issues and believed that there was too much text on the existing sheet;
- * Bad Date sheets used in indoor venues have a lot more information on them. Workers felt that Bad Date info should be shared among workers on and off street because customers access both kinds of venues;

Participants shared that important information should be in **bold** and **enlarged**, as well as contained coloured text or printed on coloured paper.

Sex workers also recommended:

- * a color coding system for repeat offenders inclusive of statistics on types of prior attacks;
- * a violence rating or profiles on specific offenders including modus operandi or indications of what 'sets them off';
- * tips for workers to read body language and nuances;
- * an acknowledgment that there are literacy issues for some worker and that Bad Date sheets may be written in well lit offices, but they are read at night where it could be snowing, raining and windy.
- * the size of the sheets should be reduced or folded;
- * the production of the Bad Date sheets should be done by former or active workers who care about our safety. This could be a job for some people.

In order to get an idea of what information is most important for workers to receive given the environments and contexts the Bad Date sheet is read in, we asked them if they had 30 seconds to read the sheet, what information needs to pop out. An overwhelming number of respondents stated that a clear description of the perpetrator was most important. They noted that cars and locations change, but facial features and identifiable information like tattoos etc. change less often. The vehicle description was the second most important piece of information followed by the licence plate number. However, workers noted that the licence numbers were purposefully listed incorrectly and that this was not reliable information. The details of the incident ranked third and the location fourth. Workers reiterated that need for high risk offenders to be highlighted and their desire for vehicle descriptions to be graphic representations. Additionally, details about any weapons used or information about the victim were also recommended as workers believe that the most dangerous perpetrators select victims based on physical traits. If the victim was a woman, man or transgendered is significant.

We asked workers if the Bad Date Sheet should be renamed. 69% said they liked the name. Others wanted to see a logo or some kind of a brand or symbol used. Those that wanted a name change recommended:

- * Predator Alert;
- * That the title should include the word 'Violence';
- * Or "Shit Heads who Should Be Castrated".

More significantly, workers noted that the title should not include the word 'Date' as it may imply consent. They wanted to see the title reflect its purpose, for example 'predator on the loose' or 'be on the look out for'-similar to police alerts.

Updates and Distribution

We asked workers how often they would like to see the Bad Date Sheets updated. Workers recognized that not all bad dates are reported, but a weekly update would be sufficient. 30% of workers wanted the sheet updated daily.

We asked our sample of workers where in the community Bad Date sheets should be available. They named the three Vancouver sex worker organizations as primary and also suggested all community organizations. Ultimately, they wanted to see the sheet at locations where they frequent:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| -On stroll on lampposts | -Medical Clinics | -Community Centers |
| -Rig Boxes | -Street Nurses | -Recovery Houses |
| -Police Officers | -Hotel Bulletin Boards | -Social Services Offices |
| -Sex Shops | -The Safe Injection Site | -Bars and clubs |

Bad Date Response: Expectations of Stakeholder Groups

In this section sex workers reviewed the roles of the four stakeholder groups: Sex Workers, Law Enforcement, Community Organizations and Victims Services. They shared their expectations of each group after a bad date had been reported. Their responses are summarized below.

Community Organizations

Foremost, workers expect community organizations to provide support, advice on options or next steps and follow up-providing information about the case if a report was filed. They expect organizations to respond immediately and without judgement. They also see organizations as their advocate and the only people in the reporting process that would believe them. Participants stated that they expect support to heal and that organizations do all that they can. Especially sex worker organizations as anti-violence work should be their primary objective.

It should be noted that a small number of participants stated that they did not expect anything from organizations due to lack of confidence in the organization based on past experiences.

Sex Workers

Sex workers expected other workers to take the primary role of 'getting the word out'. They saw word of mouth as the fastest way of getting information out to other workers. Participants

also wanted workers to watch out for each other more and report incidents as they happen in order to protect other workers as their lives depend on having this information. Sex workers interviewed wanted other workers to be safe, read all Bad Date sheets and to take violence seriously. 26% of our sample did not know what the role of workers would be.

Law Enforcement

Sex workers wanted police to take incidents seriously and investigate allegations of violence. They expect that law enforcement treat workers like humans and watch out for workers. They also indicated that police who do their jobs well and protect workers should train other officers and sensitize them. Workers also wanted names and photos of individuals charged publicized in case they re offend. 19% of our sample did not want police involved.

Victims' Services

Workers wanted victim service workers to become more knowledgeable about sex work issues and to provide non-judgemental supports as well as compensation to sex worker victims and their families. Participants highlighted supports for post traumatic stress disorder. 42% of our sample either did not know what Victims Services was or saw this government agency as part of law enforcement.

Suggestions for Future Strategies

In this section, we asked sex workers about their opinions on specific reporting and response strategies. 62% of our sample did have access to the internet and 93% had access to a phone.

Internet

Participants were asked if they would access the internet if bad date information was available online. 55% said that they would. Others had concerns about who else would have access to the information. Participants noted that the site should be password protected and include bad dates from other cities to form a nation wide source of information. As far as the internet site being a place to report violence, workers were concerned with how the information would be verified. They also noted that organizations or a group of sex workers should be the only ones able to post dates on this site after they have received face to face reports from sex workers.

1-800 Phone Line

Sex workers were asked if they would report a bad date to a phone line. 81% said that they would. Participants were concerned about how complicated it would be as automated lines that we are all exposed to can be frustrating. Workers noted that the line must be planned carefully and must also be safe. They expressed concerns about who would control the line and who would have access to information given to the line. More than half of our sample wanted the line staffed exclusively. Most others wanted the line to have both features and a minority of workers wanted the line to be messages only. Workers also identified the need for a response team to accompany the line for immediate support after violence has occurred.

Of those who supported the line being staffed, 71% wanted it staffed by former sex workers. Others wanted a mix of sex workers, police and health professionals. Still others identified characteristics of compassion and understanding required no matter how the line was staffed.

Rig Drop Boxes

Interviewers showed sex workers a map of the “Make it your Gig- Return your Rig” drop boxes and asked if they would like to see the drop boxes outfitted to hold bad date sheets. 69% of our sample said that this option was worth exploring and others stated that they don’t use drugs or that the boxes are not safe places to access at night.

Summary

Of the 42 sex workers interviewed, work experience ranged from 6 months to 40 years with a modal category of 5 years. Over half of the respondents interviewed, worked street exclusively, while 21% worked both off/on the street. Of the sex workers interviewed, most worked “every day.”

When the questions regarding reporting violence, were presented, 30% of the respondents did not provide an answer. 33% stated they did not feel safe reporting violence, as the process made them feel judged and stigmatized “all over again.” These respondents added that they reported the bad date(s) for the sake of their colleague’s safety and also, because they wanted the perpetrator caught. 52% felt no noticeable outcome of the reports; furthermore, 11% of these cases were “dropped.” 1 in 4 workers stated they would not report violence to law enforcement especially where there is any other kind of criminal activity or organized crime.

When it came to accessibility of the Bad Date Sheet, over half of the respondents could not find a Bad Date Sheet (BDS) when they needed it, and went to work regardless. Respondents recommended a list of venues the sheet should be posted. Sex workers reported that the BDS should include the following in order: 1) clear description of perpetrator, 2) vehicle description to include licence plate, 3) details of incident, and 4) location of bad date. When asked about the name “Bad Date Sheet”, just over half of the respondents “liked” the name. Others recommended the word “violence,” be included in the title, as “date” may imply consent. Respondents also stated that a weekly update of the BDS would be sufficient.

Sex workers stated that community groups working with sex workers regarding bad date reporting, need to “do all they can” and expect an immediate response without judgement, especially if the organization is receiving funding for direct sex work program delivery. Respondents stated that there is an expectation among one another, in the trade, to take the primary role of “getting the word out” regarding the BDS. While 19% of the respondents stated that they did not want the police involved in the bad date reporting process, an overwhelming response was the need for law enforcement to treat worker like human beings and advocate for their safety. Workers also felt that Victim’s Services needs to become more knowledgeable about sex work issues and provide non-judgemental support and compensation to sex work victims and their families.

Suggestions for bad date reporting strategies included the internet, 1-800 phone line and rig drop boxes. While 62% of our sample stated they did have access to internet, just over half of the respondents said they would have access on-line bad information. Concerns included legitimate on-line reporting, perpetrators having access to information, updating and distribution of private information. The majority of the sex workers interviewed stated they would report a bad date on a confidential toll free phone line. Respondents stated they would like to phone line to be staffed by former sex workers as opposed to a dedicated voice mail message. In

addition, 69% of our sample were in support of having the BDS posted on various rig drop boxes in the city, another form of getting the word out.

Two: Findings from Interviews with Community Organizations, Law Enforcement and Victims Services

Overview

Contributions from stakeholders have been collapsed in the following section. Some of the questions asked of law enforcement and victim's services differ from those asked of community organizations due to their roles. In these instances where information that is distinct to a stakeholder group, they are identified. Staff members from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General- Victim's Services were sent information about this project and were contacted for interviews. Unfortunately interviews could not be organized, but we look forward to future collaboration. In this section Victim's Services refers to community based services funded specifically to support victims of crime.

Accessibility

Of the 17 organizations, police officers and victims services staff interviewed all have had access to the Bad Date sheet. 15 groups had the sheets available in their offices. Some kept the sheets posted in public areas and washrooms; others distributed information to staff and forwarded information to indoor and high track workers. Staff of the Mobile Access Project (Outreach Van) provided sheets directly to sex workers. Some stakeholders receive the Bad Date sheet by email weekly, others shared that they receive it infrequently or not at all. (It must be noted here that during the course of this research project, the Confrontation Management Team at PACE Society expanded its Bad Date distribution list). Respondents received Bad Date sheets from either the WISH or PACE email list or they picked them up from various organizations. 30% of participants had experienced not being able to find a Bad Date Sheet when they needed one. Most contacted one or all of the three sex worker organizations and were able to obtain the latest issue.

Format

41% of our sample was happy with the format of the Bad Date sheet. Others noted that the information was "all mixed up" or did not contain enough detail to be effective. Additionally:

Content: information is too vague, hard to retain and needs to be presented differently;

Literacy issues: too much text and info needs to stand out;

Translation: the sheet is needed by a diverse population including indoor workers;

Context: papers size may be too big to fit into small purses and sheets can get wet;

Format: the use of columns may make information easier to read and retain.

Participants were asked how they would improve the existing sheet. There were a wide range of responses here and some mirrored the sentiments of sex workers. Stakeholders suggested:

- A logo or branding image;
- The use of columns or boxes;
- A way of identifying patterns;
- A rating for danger level;

- A preparation for low light;
- Bold and enlarged print;
- The use of color and graphics;
- An accompanying web site with BC wide links;

-A way of indicating new Bad Dates -A map of hot spots or higher risk locations

We asked stakeholders what information needed to stand out on the sheet. Similar to sex worker responses, most noted the description of the person as primary. It was suggested that this description be inclusive of unique characteristics including clothing, a distinct smell, race or behavioural traits. Like sex workers, stakeholders emphasized the need for graphics and pictures of vehicle types. Licence plate numbers, location and details of the incident were seen as secondary and important.

We asked police officers what the key pieces of information a sex worker should retain and provide in order to increase the possibility of police follow-up. Officers noted that the licence plate number and any name or nickname the offender may have used is important as there is a national data base where this information is searchable. Additionally, if a struggle occurred and skin was grabbed or scratched, DNA can be obtained.

Updates and Distribution

We asked stakeholders how often they would like the Bad Date sheet updated. Most indicated that weekly was sufficient. Some respondents that were involved in the distribution of the sheets wanted information available instantaneously or daily and noted that sex workers should get updates more often. We asked participants what organizations should receive the Bad Date sheet and they noted that sheets should be available in locations where the sex workers frequent. Their list included: bathrooms, laundry mats, clinics, shelters, indoor venues, transit, beat cops, cabs, telephone polls, meal facilities and hotels. Groups also noted that the sheets should be emailed, faxed or available on line to organizations in order to share printing costs among groups who budget for this expense.

Bad Date Responsiveness

We asked stakeholders if they received Bad Date reports from sex workers. 53% did and some noted that reporting was inclusive of men who were exploiting female workers. We asked groups how they documented this information. Some groups did not document the information, of those that did, the information would end up in 3rd party reports, internal log books for distribution by staff or the Bad Date sheet. For law enforcement, there are General Occurrence and Standard Victim (911) reports. Information is processed and based on evidence and the desires of the victim the case may be investigated by Detectives or used to build evidence.

Participants were asked whether they found their documentation effective and 76% were happy with their practices. Many noted that their forms were intimidating or too clinical. Additionally, support and improvement is necessary but groups have limited capacity and resources. Some groups shared that forms should be standardized. (It should be noted here that many community groups interviewed have been in contact with a police officer who is working on standardizing 3rd party report which will be ready in a year). One group noted that filling out forms may serve to comfort workers, but behaviours and follow up needs to occur.

Groups were asked if they had a set procedure in place to dictate what staff should do after they receive a Bad Date report. Most groups were directed by the sex worker as to how they would want to proceed. Most often information was retained or put on the bad date sheet.

Stakeholders shared an overwhelming interest in collaborating with other groups to standardize the Bad Date reporting form (Which differs from the 3rd party reports but there may be opportunities to learn from the development of the latter). Participants stated that they were unsure how other groups collected, vetted and distributed the information and the process could be made clearer.

We then asked of stakeholders if they would take reports from sex workers who were under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. Most stakeholders would take the report, proceed with gathering evidence, or did not have a policy preventing the collection of information in such cases. 30% did not respond to this question. Most stakeholders indicated that they approach situations on a case by case basis.

Supports to Sex Workers

Stakeholders were asked what supports they believed were necessary after a sex worker had provided Bad Date information. Groups indicated that counselling and referral to law enforcement should be provided if desired. Also accompaniment for hospital visits and emotional support is necessary. Stakeholders also expressed the need for housing and access to resources to stabilize workers is essential. A group also stated that a book of car descriptions may improve descriptions and details provided. Community groups shared that there needs to be follow-up and ongoing support to those that disclose violence and/or proceed with police reports.

We asked stakeholders if they believed sex workers felt safe to report violence to them. They stated that sex workers may fear retribution and their feelings of safety are based in the level of confidentiality and support they receive. Community groups note that they build long term trusting relationships with sex workers and some sex workers feel that nothing will come of their reports. Officers stated that the existing relationship between sex workers and police are not historically trusting and need work but are improving. This improvement is indicated by the increased number of reports received by the department.

Community organizations were asked if sex workers ever requested a service or support that they were not able to provide. 35% of our sample said 'yes', workers have requested on-the-spot sexual assault examinations to avoid going to uncomfortable environment. Also, workers have requested immediate counselling or a continuum of supports inclusive of housing, detox and welfare that was not possible to provide in a timely fashion. Additionally, the timing of the request had an affect on the organization's ability to respond. Workers have also asked for make-up to cover bruises or the opportunity to take a shower/bath that could not be provided.

Stakeholders were asked if there were current strategies in place to improve bad date reporting or responsiveness at their work places. 65% indicated that there were no current strategies, but that organizations are always improving their referrals and the expansion of resources. Officers shared details about their new system called PRIME, in which police have access to a national data base and information about offenders are provided in real time (feedback truncated to protect victims). Officers urge sex workers to report violence immediately in order to catch offenders before they have an opportunity to re-offend. Officers also shared details about the multiple choice feature of the new 3rd party report.

Bad Date Response: Expectations of Stakeholder Groups

We asked stakeholders what they felt the role of their group and others in reporting and responding to bad dates and/or reports.

Community Organizations

Stakeholders felt that community groups were in the front lines of Bad Date information collection. They felt their role was to get the information out to sex workers and to encourage workers to report information. Groups also saw themselves as the liaison between sex workers and police, act as advocates to ensure that the rights of workers were protected and to offer resources, support, transportation and accompaniment. Additional roles include sharing information with law enforcement and other groups for broad-based dissemination.

Police

Participants indicated that the role of the VPD is to collect evidence, receive and process reports, follow through and investigate violence and to work on improving relationships and increasing trust among sex workers. Stakeholders added that police should become sensitized to the lives of sex workers. Some respondents noted we have a long way to go and that enlightened officers should take a lead role in educating patrol and traffick officers that encounter sex workers more often.

Victim's Services

Some stakeholders were not aware of the role of victim's services, those who were suggested that their role is to provide counselling and compensation to victims of crime. Additionally, victim's services provide court support and free services for victims of violence. Stakeholders wanted to see an implementation of a specific service for sex workers, customized to increase access for sex workers and the applicability of their supports and benefits to sex workers. Respondents also expected the posting of Bad Date reports, provision of options for workers, explanation of their rights and support in navigating the justice system. There was also a recommendation that victim's services should visit sex worker and community organizations and share information and resources.

Sex Workers

Stakeholders indicated that the role of sex workers include reporting violence or suspicious behaviour as soon as it occurs and to support other workers to report as well. Additionally, sex workers could take a lead role in passing the word on dangerous dates among workers. Some participants stated that it was the responsibility of other stakeholder groups to ensure that workers are safe to come forward and share information as well as protected from violence. It was also noted that workers should stay at the scene after they have called 911 and the perpetrator has left to ensure that officers can collect evidence.

Best Experiences

We asked stakeholders what was their best experience reporting or responding to violence against a sex worker. One officer shared the following:

"Yes, I have had many. We arrested a lot people who hurt women in the downtown eastside. I remember once, I had read the bad date sheet and there was a description of a [vehicle]. The sex worker reported that t was full of stuff like he was living in his car. Anyway, I spot this [vehicle] in the

[bar] parking lot and decide to take a look. As I approached, I can tell it's full of clothes and garbage and I see this guy kind of walking towards the car. I'm not beside the car yet so he doesn't get that I'm looking for him (laughs). So, I came up beside him and ask him for identification and so on. When we searched the car some of her (the sex worker's) stuff was in there so we booked him! The car description on the Bad Date sheet lead to arrest and a 10 yr sentence!"

Participants noted instances where there were really detailed reports that led to police follow up and the perpetrator being found. Others shared experiences of reported violence appearing on the Bad Date sheet or a quick response from police. We asked stakeholders what conditions or elements made there experiences successful. Stakeholders shared that their success was due in part to:

- Reconnect meetings with police;
- Quick response from police;
- Collaboration with other organizations;
- Supportive environments make possible for sex workers;
- Ease, compassion and trusting relationships with sex workers;
- Immediate response from all called upon.

Suggestions for Future Strategies

In this section, we asked stakeholders their opinions about specific reporting and response strategies.

1-800 Phone Line

76% of stakeholders in our sample supported the idea of a 1-800 line to report Bad Dates or violence for sex workers. They noted that confidentiality for workers must be prioritized. Those that were not in support of a line indicated that the level of care necessary cannot be provided over the phone or that information may pass through many hands and lose details or its integrity. Those in support of a line wanted to see it staffed primarily by former sex workers and community organizations. Others suggested that the line be staffed by Elders or a collaboration of community stakeholders trained to do the job in partnership with police.

Rig Drop Boxes

Stakeholders were asked if they would be in support of outfitted the "Make it your Gig- Return your Rig" drop boxes to include spaces for the Bad Date sheet. 88% of participants believed that this would be a good idea for a segment of the population and it would increase the availability of the sheets to workers. Some saw it as a paying job for a team of workers to restock boxes and suggested that other options will work better for off street venues and those that do not use drugs.

Internet

We asked stakeholders if they would be in support of a website where Bad Date reports can be viewed and/or downloaded. 82% were in support of the idea and noted that the information would be more accessible to organizations and off street workers. Some participants commented on the level of security needed. Some interpreted this question to mean that bad date reports would be uploaded to the website as well. Those groups shared concerns about accountability and questioned who would screen reports and vet the information.

Summary

Of the 17 community organizations, police officers and victims services staff interviewed all have had access to the Bad Date sheet. Many of them had bad date sheets available on-site. Less than half of the participants were happy about the format of the bad date sheet; furthermore, they commented on needed changes to content, literacy issues, translation, context, and format. Similar to sex worker responses, most noted the description of the person as primary and a need for graphics, incident details, licence plates and pictures of vehicle types. Stakeholders agreed that bad date sheets should be updated weekly and emailed, faxed or available on line to organizations in order to share printing costs among groups who budget for this expense.

53% of stakeholders received Bad Date reports from sex workers. Documentation was limited and much of the information would end up in third party reporting. Law enforcement has different forms for documentation and depending on the amount of information given; cases may or may not be investigated. 76% of participants felt that the documentation was effective, but that the forms were too intimidating or clinical. It was noted that behaviours and follow-up needs to occur. Many of the participants stated that the steps taken after the reporting process depended upon the action wanted by sex workers. Most often the information taken was retained for the bad date sheet, even if the sex worker was under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

Stakeholders indicated that counselling and referral to law enforcement should be provided to sex workers if desired. They also expressed that the need for housing and access to resources to stabilize workers is essential. Most of the stakeholders mentioned that sex workers may fear retribution and their feelings of safety are based in the level of confidentiality and support they receive. Though trust is built, sex workers feel that nothing will come of the reports.

35% of community organizations noted that they had were sex workers that requested a service or support that they were not able to provide. 65% of stakeholders indicated that there were no current strategies to improve bad date reporting or responsiveness at their work places, but that organizations are always improving their referrals and the expansion of resources. Officers shared details about their new system called PRIME, in which police have access to a national data base and information about offenders are provided in real time (feedback truncated to protect victims).

Stakeholders felt that community groups were in the front lines of Bad Date information collection. Participants indicated that the role of the VPD is to collect evidence, receive and process reports, follow through and investigate violence and to work on improving relationships and increasing trust among sex workers. They suggested that the role of victim services is to provide counselling and compensation to victims of crime. Stakeholders indicated that the role of sex workers include reporting violence or suspicious behaviour as soon as it occurs and to support other workers to report as well. Stakeholders shared best experiences. The majority of stakeholders felt that a hotline for bad date reporting would be beneficial along with rig drop boxes and a website for bad date reporting.

Section 9: National and International Violence Sheets and Strategies (Attachments viewed at Community meeting)

City and Organization	Violence Reporting Strategy	Highlights and Attachments
Calgary Alberta: Exit Community Outreach exitstaff@woodshomes.ca	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reports taken by Outreach Workers on stroll or in outreach van; -Staff accompany workers to support services requested; -Bad Date Sheets are compiled monthly and distributed by Exit and Safeworks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Exit and Crossroads (Edmonton) exchange sheets monthly; -Bad Date Sheets are provided on Legal sized paper (Attached sheet has been reduced)
Edmonton Alberta: Crossroads kourch@ecccc.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Outreach workers gather bad date report information face to face; -Reports are also called into their offices; -Bad Date sheets are updated when 2 new reports are received; -Crossroads partners with other organizations and circulates Bad date information exchange. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bad Date reporting form and Bad Date brochure is attached.
Niagara Region, Ontario Niagara Region Police Service 1-888-818-4808	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -See above report; -Answering machine prompts caller to leave details regarding assault 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Information is tracked on a database; -Bad Date line does not subscribe to Caller ID and no attempts are made to identify callers.
Toronto, Ontario Sex Professionals of Canada (SPOC) www.spoc.ca	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reports can be made via telephone for Toronto area or across the country; -After reports are made, their website is updated with information within 10-15 minutes with pictures and descriptions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The website has a Bad Client List (which contains the serious offenders) and an Undesirable Client List.
Victoria, Australia Resourcing Health Education (rhED) www.sexworker.org.au	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ugly Mug Reports are taken by staff of organization who have strong relationships with sex workers; -Descriptions and incidents are circulated among sex workers and community at large within brothels and community organizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Ugly Mug Reports are also relayed to police services; -Police investigate based on vehicle info and descriptions; -Bad Date Reports can be made online
Wellington, New Zealand New Zealand Prostitutes Collective (NZPC) www.nzpc.org.nz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -NZPC collects and distributes Ugly Mug Reports. Reports can be viewed on line. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Information is shared within regions including Auckland and Wellington -Only Sex Industry Workers have access to the Ugly Mug Reports

Section 10: Original Bad Date Sheet Format

WEEKLY UPDATE: BAD DATE REPORT FOR MAY 3, 2007

**** New report** VIDEO TAPES DATES – 3rd FLOOR OF THE AFTON HOTEL (May 2/07):** Worker was picked up at the corner of Hastings and Gore street and taken to the 3rd floor of the Afton Hotel on East Hastings beside the Ovaltine restaurant. The date agreed to \$30 for BJ. Once they arrived at the hotel the date said that he wanted everything and asked how much more it would cost. The worker told the date that it would cost an extra \$50 for a lay and a BJ but that they would have to be done by no later than 5pm. The date paid the worker \$80. Once the date started the man began making strange requests for the worker to face a certain way and to say her name and age. He would only do the date from a certain way/angle. Once the date was almost over the worker heard a fast buzzing sound and something click. She then noticed her face on the television. The date was secretly recording them having sex. Worker spoke with other women and others had had similar experiences. He apparently puts these videos on his website. Date was repeatedly trying to remove condom. The suspect is described as Asian, 5'7", 130-160 lbs., small/medium build, 34 years old, fine, short black hair and brown eyes.

ROBBED – PROMISED \$\$\$ AND A CELL PHONE (April 17/07): Worker was picked up at Fraser and Marine Drive by foot. The date said that he would pay her his Razor cell phone and cash. When the worker saw that he was on foot she was hesitant to do the date but he begged and was very persistent. The worker did the date and the man demanded his phone and cash back. The worker went along with it and gave it back to avoid violence. The date pretended to pay her back with drugs, but it was really rolling papers and an empty bag. The man said he was a drug dealer and that he was on probation. The suspect is described as East Indian, 6'5", and 21-23 years old with glasses and was wearing a tracksuit with navy blue pants and a brown jacket at the time of the incident.

“MIKEY” - LICENCE PLATE – 942 JK* (April 27/07): A man who goes by the name “Mikey” picked a worker in New Westminster. The date wanted money from the worker for drugs and tried to coerce her to give it to him. He wanted to take pictures and the worker refused which resulted in the date becoming very violent. He is very controlling and kept the women’s phone and items from her. The date said that he wanted to “hurt someone on the 12th Street stroll.” He was driving an early 90’s, light brown Toyota Camry licence plate **942 JK***. He may have a dog with the name Brandy; there were dog hairs present in the vehicle. The man is described as 43 years old, Caucasian, 5'10", shoulder length straight brown hair, clean-cut with a medium build and is 170 lbs. He has a limp in his right leg.

CHOKED FOR 20 MINUTES (April 30/07): Worker was picked up at Hastings and Gore at 3am and taken to Lucky Rooms. The worker negotiated the date and got paid for a BJ. The date was going along fine but the worker got tired and said that he needed to hurry up. When she resumed the BJ the date started to choke her and did so for 20 minutes. The worker elbowed the date in his face and ran. The suspect goes by the name “Tommy” and is Caucasian, 5'8", 160 lbs., muscular build, approximately 30 years old with a goatee and shaggy style strawberry blonde hair.

Please fax all Bad Date reports to WISH at 604-669-9479 or email wishdropincentre2@telus.net Bad Dates can be reported to many agencies in the community as well as outreach workers including SURREY GIRLZ 778-240-1055, DEYAS 604-657-6561, WISH 604-669-9474, PACE 604-872-7651, PEERS 604-681-3044 and the MAP van at 604-720-5686 (between 10:30pm – 5:30am 7 days a week), if you are in need of support.

REPORT BAD DATES!

Red Light Alert

The following information is provided for sex workers by sex workers and is supported by the BCCEW and WISH Drop-In Centre Society.

Violence and Hate Crimes against Sex Workers

DATE	August 7/07 WARNING	August 8/07 (2:30-3am) * New Report *	August 8/07 * New Report*	August 8/07 * New Report * Second Report on same Assailant	August 9/07 Incident happened July 8/07 * New Report *
WHO	Young female girls	Female worker	Female Worker	Female Worker	Female Worker
Perp Description	Caucasian male, 34-36 years old, skinny, light brown hair and blue eyes, wearing a grey suit and grey tie "looks like a lawyer or something"	"Gary", Caucasian male, skinny build, strong, 190-200 lbs., blonde/white hair, fresh scar above right eye.	Afro-Canadian/Jamaican male.	Jamaican male, 6'2", 45 years old, shoulder length dreads.	Caucasian male, in his 30's, dark brown hair with brown eyes and heavy set
Vehicle / License Plate	Grey-blue minivan with tinted windows - rear license plate missing.	Older model red, 4-door station wagon that smelled of mould.	Dark blue 2005/2006 Chevy King Cab 569 4*N	New Chevy King Cab Truck 4-door; license plate 569 4*N, very clean inside, bars on box of truck.	White 4-door Alero or something similar
Details	This man is going around looking for young girls around 11 or 12 years old.	Man picked up worker and took her to friend's hotel room. He was initially very nice and paid worker, but when they got the room he completely changed and tried to strangle her. He asked her over and over if she wanted to "die tonight." He made reference to Pickton and said he "would make the pig farm look like a joke." She reached under bed for bear spray /hammer and he took off.	Verbally and physically aggressive - pulling hair and calling worker names - turned around and came back to harass friend.	Wanted BJ for \$30 - worker said no b/c man was being pushy/rude - said she wanted \$50 and he agreed. Grabbed women's ponytail and shoved her head down very hard. The worker told him to stop and said she was uncomfortable with his aggression. Started date again and he did the same thing. Women got out of truck to leave and man yelled, "you dumb hooker" and threatened her: said he would be back to "teach her a lesson". He then tried to pick up women across the street and tried to pick up her sister in front of her.	John not pleased with services of victim and she suffered broken ribs, a broken nose, lacerations and bruises on her head and possibly a broken collarbone.
Location	Worker reported man looking for young girls while working around Clark and Georgia street.	Picked up outside Union Gospel Mission (Princess and Cordova) and taken to friends apartment.	Georgia and Clark	Picked up at corner of Broadway and Clark @ 10pm	10700 Block of 135 th Street in Surrey - Incident occurred in 1400 block of River Road

If you need assistance call **Mobile Access Project (MAP)** @ 604-720-5686 (everyday) 10:30 p.m. - 5:30 a.m. or the **Sex Worker Liaison**: Pager 604-686-7523. If you would like to report information to the Police, but want to protect your anonymity, you can contact one of the below organizations and make a **Third Party Report**; this info will be passed on to the VPD. Keep our Neighbourhoods free from condoms and needles. Visit: www.livingincommunity.ca/toolkit

Peers Vancouver 604.681.3044 MAP 604.720.5686 WISH 604.669.9474 Pace Society 604.872.7651

Section Eleven: Project Budget

See Attached