

FEBRUARY  
2014  
EDITION  
OF THE

# SA INFORMER NEWSLETTER

The SA Foundation's long-term objective is that no person be enslaved by, or trapped in the sex trade.

Our highly effective recovery program offers a viable solution to those who are able to escape the sex trade.

We plant these programs in partnership with individuals who are committed to providing comprehensive recovery programs to trafficked and sexually exploited women.

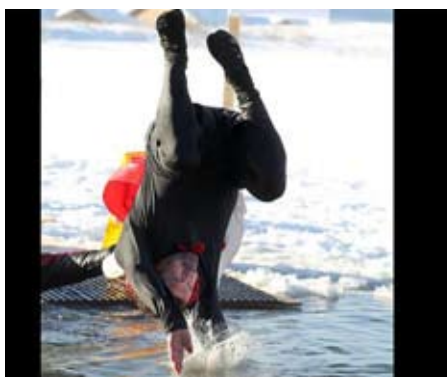
For more information about our programs and services please visit our website at [www.safoundation.com](http://www.safoundation.com)

## HAPPY NEW YEAR AND GUNG HAY FAT CHOY!

We hope that each of you had a very blessed Christmas season. At the SA Foundation it was a mix of joy and sadness, as is usual when dealing with the recovery of young women from sexual exploitation that have come from such broken homes. We had many young women enjoy the holidays in our programs in Vancouver, Budapest and Nepal and we thank all the generous donors for their gifts of funds and Christmas presents for the women.

Our 2nd Annual Polar Bear Plunge was an incredible way to launch the New year! On January 1st over 50 crazy jumpers took the icy plunge and the general feeling was 'what is a few minutes of pain and terror when compared to the months and years of suffering women that are sexually exploited endure'? Over \$74,000.00 was raised in pledges and a terrific time was had by all. Join us next year as a sponsor, pledger or jumper! A special thanks to the Old Guys in Action who give so generously of their time, energy and financial support to get this event off the ground each year!

Inside this newsletter you will find information about the current issue of legalization, about how to craft effective arguments to defend your position against prostitution and you'll get the dates for 2 exciting fundraisers! Thank you for your love and support, it really makes a difference!



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## IS IT TRUE OUR GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO LEGALIZE PROSTITUTION?

This is a question that has been asked of the SA Foundation, over and over. While we can't give a definitive answer at this point, our volunteer, Gloria Mak, put this article together to give you a quick overview of what has happened to date and where Canada stands on the issue.

In December 2013, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled to strike down three of Canada's laws related to prostitution. The Court found that the three laws which criminalize operating a common bawdy house for the purpose of prostitution (brothel), living wholly, or in part, off the avails of a prostituted individual, and communicating in the public for the purposes of engaging in prostitution, were unconstitutional.

**What do these laws mean?** In Canada, prostitution has always been legal. However, the laws make certain prostitution-related activities illegal. Criminalizing the operation of a common bawdy house (brothel) prohibits individuals from using their private homes, rental or commercial spaces to offer sexual services. Criminalizing living off the avails of a prostituted individual prohibits third party individuals from taking the earnings of prostitutes. Criminalizing the public communication for sexual services prohibits individuals from engaging in sexual transactions in any public area, such as libraries, community centres, municipal parks, etc.

**How did these laws get struck down?** A group of sex worker advocates used the Charter of Rights and Freedom to make the case that the three laws violated their right to safety. They successfully convinced the judicial system that the three laws jeopardized their safety to embrace prostitution as a profession. They argued that providing sexual services indoors is safer. They argued their safety could be enhanced if they were allowed to hire security personnel from their prostitution earnings. They argued that open public communication about a sexual transaction is safer and allows a prostitute to determine whether it is safe to engage in sex with an unknown individual.

**What will happen now?** The Supreme Court of Canada has given Parliament one year to revise the three prostitution laws. Currently, the three prostitution laws remain in effect. Given the uncertain fate of the three laws, it is questionable as to whether any individuals will be charged under these laws within this one-year grace period. In an effort to enact a new prostitution law, Member of Parliament Joy Smith is currently circulating a public petition, which will call on Parliament to implement new prostitution legislation that will criminalize the purchasers of sexual services. MP Joy Smith's petition can be found here:  
<http://www.joysmith.ca/assets/petition%20swedish%20model%20of%20prostitution%20-%20eng%20-%20final%20-%20large%20font.pdf>

**What does it mean to criminalize the purchasers of sex?** The Swedish Government was the first to introduce a law that criminalized the purchase of sexual services. The Swedish Government views prostitution of women not only as a form of inequality, but also as a form of violence against women. Sweden enacted the law to criminalize the purchase of sex in 1999 and it remains in effect today. Norway and Iceland adopted a similar law in 2009 and France enacted a similar law in 2013. Should Canada follow the examples of Sweden, Norway, Iceland, and France, it would mean that those who sell sexual services are not criminalized, but anyone caught purchasing sexual services will be criminally prosecuted.



SA FOUNDATION

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## **What is the difference between decriminalization versus legalization of prostitution?**

Decriminalization means that there are no criminal penalties in place for a specific action. Legalization means that laws and regulations are in place for a specific action. Prostitution, the act of providing sexual services to someone for payment, is not a criminal offense in Canada. If Parliament decides that the Government will regulate prostitution in some manner, then prostitution will be legalized in Canada. Currently, activities associated with prostitution are illegal, such as attempting to solicit a person to engage in sexual intercourse with another person. If Parliament decides to remove all laws associated with prostitution-related activities, this constitutes decriminalization.

**What if the three prostitution-related laws become void?** In Canada, the judicial body (Supreme Court) and legislative body (Parliament) are independent branches of government. As citizens of a democratic country, we elect representatives to the legislative body. It is Parliament's decision as to whether new prostitution legislation will be made and if the three prostitution-related laws will be revised, remain in place, or become void. If Parliament agrees with the Supreme Court and strikes down the three laws, then the sale of sexual services could be permitted in any residential or commercial area, the earnings of a prostitute could be legally distributed to anyone, and communicating for sexual services can occur anywhere in public.

**What is the SA Foundation's stance on prostitution?** SA Foundation believes that prostitution is sexual exploitation. Prostitution degrades human life and reduces human beings to commodities for profit. SA Foundation believes that prostituted individuals should not be criminalized and that individuals wishing to exit prostitution should be supported in their recovery. SA Foundation does not believe that striking down the three laws increases the safety of those who are sexually exploited. Instead, striking down the three laws may also have a significant impact on public health and safety. Additionally, SA Foundation does not believe that government regulation of prostitution serves as a viable alternative. Instead, those who engage in sexual exploitation, the purchasers of sexual services, should be criminalized.

The following statement made on January 29, 2014 by the Minister of Justice is very encouraging:

"While the administration of justice is a matter of provincial jurisdiction, Canadians expect criminal laws in this country to be properly enforced so long as they remain in force. The Supreme Court of Canada made very clear in its decision that the current laws with respect to prostitution were to remain in force for twelve months. This gives Parliament the chance to respond.

Our Government believes that prostitution is harmful to vulnerable individuals, particularly women. We are currently reviewing a range of options to address the harms that flow from prostitution to communities. But make no mistake: doing nothing is not an option. Our Government will be taking action to maintain the safety of our streets and communities."

Hon. Peter MacKay  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada



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## SPEAKING OF PROSTITUTION: ARGUMENTS AND COUNTER-ARGUMENTS

from Kvinnofrontes (The Women's Front of Sweden)

As a supporter in the fight against sexual exploitation and trafficking of women, have you ever been at a loss for words when tackling the issue with friends, family, co-workers? You are not alone! It is a complex issue with a lot of information - some accurate and some terribly inaccurate. This article clearly defines some common misconceptions about prostitution and we are hoping will equip you to become an even better advocate for its eradication!

### **Argument #1: Prostitution has always existed (subtext: and so it's always going to)**

Slavery has also 'always existed', does that make it okay? Prostate cancer has 'always' existed, does that mean we should stop treating it? Murder has 'always' existed...and so on.

In the past, it was common to beat children for disciplinary purposes. Thanks to Swedish law against child abuse, among other things, a lot fewer people in Sweden beat their children today. People have changed their views on corporal punishment. Child abuse still exists, but the more children not having to suffer the better, isn't it?

That's how we see prostitution, rape and abuse of women; laws can't make oppression of women disappear, but sometimes they can still do some good - the fewer women having to suffer the better, isn't it?

Or are you saying that heterosexual men have a genetic/biological inclination towards exploiting women sexually instead of enjoying a mutual sexual experience? Personally, we don't have such a pessimistic view of men.

To read the rest of this booklet, go to the Prostitution Research Centre's website located [here](#).



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LAUGH, DANCE, SING

LOVE

A DESSERT BENEFIT EVENING IN SUPPORT OF  
**SERVANTS ANONYMOUS FOUNDATION**

**ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>**  
AT VARSITY BIBLE CHURCH (4708 VALIANT DRIVE NW)

ENJOY PREFORMANCES BY  
**THE SAVRIDI SINGERS, IMPROV ADVENTURE THEATRE  
AND EMBER DANCE COMPANY.**

SHOP FOR SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS JEWELRY WITH GLOBAL WONDERS  
And great prizes to be won in a rose raffle!

TICKETS \$20 / PERSON :: DOORS OPEN @ 6:30PM  
*Tickets ONLINE @ SAFOUNDATION.COM OR BY PHONE 403-978-9696*



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## *Spring Bling is Coming!!!!*

Ladies, don't miss out on this much anticipated yearly event! Spring Bling is the kick-off party to launch the Global Wonders spring line each year and includes great entertainment, silent auction items, games, fabulous desserts and of course, shopping!



**When:** Wednesday, March 19, 2014 Doors open at 6:30pm

**Where:** Polish Canadian Club 3015 15 St NE, Calgary AB

### **Tickets:**

Sponsor a table of 8 against a tax receipt or come on your own. Tables of 8 are \$160 and individual tickets are \$25.

Use our online payment system at:  
[www.safoundation.com](http://www.safoundation.com).

Be sure and mark SPRING BLING TICKETS in the comments box so the funds are allocated properly.

Or, contact Lise at [lise@safoundation.com](mailto:lise@safoundation.com) or by phone at 403-978-9696.



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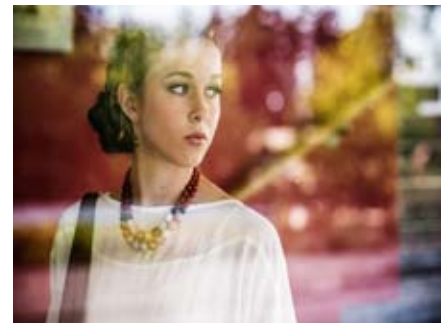
**The Spring/Summer 2014 collection is  
arriving this week!**

Book your home, school, office or church party today to  
get your hands on these one-of-a-kind pieces!

Each purchase provides work and wages to young  
women in Nepal who have escaped sexual exploitation  
and are participating in our recovery programs!

To book your party contact: [lise@safoundation.com](mailto:lise@safoundation.com)

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE ONLINE SHOPPING CART!](#)



## GET INVOLVED TODAY!

There are so many ways to get involved with the SA Foundation! Here are just a few:

1. Take the Communicar Seminar! This educational online course will provide you with a deeper understanding of how young girls become enslaved in the sex trade, and will educate you about the realities of exploitation and recovery. [Click here to learn more!](#)
2. Many have joined the Monthly Donor Program as a way to equip the SA Foundation to consistently provide the care and services needed by participants to exit the sex trade and build a new life for themselves and their children! *It's amazing what \$25/month or more can do!* [Click here to sign up today!](#)
3. **PROGRAM FINANCIAL SUPPORT:** Every month we need financial support for our Vancouver Housing Program of \$4,000 and for the Day Program of \$5,000. If there's anything you can contribute, it would be greatly appreciated! [Click here to give a gift!](#)
4. Give a tax deductible gift to the general fund. Your support is greatly appreciated! Every dollar translates into lives being saved! [Click here to give a gift!](#)
5. Organize a small (or large!) fundraising event! Supporters have put together fun runs, bowlathons, luncheons, dinner events and the list goes on! Become an ACT team leader in your community! Contact Dominique at the coordinates below to get yours started!



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