

The Last Dance

London's No Touch Policy will be the Death of Adult Entertainment

Business Licensing By-law; Adult Live Entertainment Parlor 7.7

“No Attendant shall, while providing services in an Adult Live Entertainment Parlour, touch or have physical contact with any other person in any manner whatsoever involving any part of that person’s body.”

Description:

In 2017, London’s Municipality enacted a ban on sexual touching in strip clubs. The City of London has stood by this bylaw as they want to ensure all adult entertainers are not being forced into touching by management. However, this ban only hurts the sex work community

Sex Workers Statements

“We all enforce our own boundaries but those rules infringe on our own autonomy and right to enforce our own rules”

“But to ban us from touching makes my job harder. It doesn’t protect me it makes me break the law to make money and then I risk further punishment if I am caught OR my boundaries pushed and I want to pursue action for that it’s harder to do because they victim blame”

“A lot of the women here will travel to Niagara and other places regularly where the bylaw doesn’t exist”

“That’s the same thing as saying all sex is bad because sexual assault is so widespread, so let’s make all sex illegal to get at sexual assault”

“Women can grind on men for free at the bar and that’s fine but if I’m getting paid for it, it’s endangering me?”

Jenna Taylor
Kings University College

Community Partners

Hands OFF	Hands ON
London Women’s Abuse Center	Anova
London City Council	Safe Space
	HIV AIDS



The red umbrella symbolizes protection from the abuse sex workers are subjected by the police, pimps, costumers and ignorant and biases society members

Arguments Hands OFF

- Ensures no workers are coerced by club owners to provide sexual touching
- Illegal touching is in violation with the federal prostitution law, with London allowing touching, they are breaking federal law
- Prevents patrons from being charged with a prostitution charge

Arguments Hands ON

- Workers in clubs can distinguish their own personal boundaries and provide consent
- Forces workers trying to make livable wages to provide services outside the protection of the club
- Other municipalities have different rules leaving workers travelling long distances in order to work

History

1867: Canada inherits anti-prostitution laws from Britain

1982: Charter of Rights and Freedoms signed

1985: parliament passes C-49 barring communication for prostitution

1988: Bill C-15 made it an offence to obtain or attempt to obtain the sexual services of a minor

2014: C-36 prosecutes the buyer of the sexual service not the one providing the service

2017: London Municipality enforces a ‘no touch’ ban that restricts workers from touching (as it can be a form of prostitution)

What can be done?

At a macro scale, the main goal would be to decriminalize sex work federally and overturn C-36, however at a local level, London needs to remove bylaw 7.7 under the Adult Live entertainment section. ‘

Waiting on response from bylaw enforcement London on how to revoke bylaws

Sex worker victims of homicides, Canada, 1991 to 2014

