



International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers

For Immediate Release – December 8, 2011

Calgary, AB – On Thursday, December 17th AIDS Calgary and our Shift program recognize the International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers. This day commemorates the hate crimes, violence and discrimination that sex workers face, and urges the public to respect the basic human rights of sex workers.

“Violence against those involved in sex work is a problem in our community”, comments Catharine van der Linden, Shift Team Leader at AIDS Calgary. “All Canadians are afforded the right to work in a safe environment, however those involved in the sex industry repeatedly have that right removed”, notes van der Linden.

Sex work includes people working outdoors on the street as well as indoor workers such as escorts, exotic dancers, adult film entertainers, or those offering services in massage parlors. Violence can and does include murder, rape, robbery, harassment, and physical and sexual abuse from their customers and the wider community.

AIDS Calgary and Shift will be hosting a symposium and launch of the Red Umbrella Challenge to address the safety of sex workers in Calgary on December 15th. This will be an opportunity to participate in interactive discourse. This event will take place at the Calgary Cares Centre located at 110, 1603 – 10 Ave SW, during 5:30pm – 7:30pm.

For more information, please visit www.shiftcalgary.org.

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AIDS Calgary is a local not-for-profit AIDS service organization that offers support services to individuals who are at-risk for, infected or affected by HIV/AIDS and provides prevention and education throughout the Calgary, Medicine Hat and Bow Valley regions. For more information, please contact AIDS Calgary at (403) 508-2500 or online at www.aidscalgary.org.

The Shift program provides support services for people in sex work. Utilizing a harm reduction and rights based approach, Shift works with adults involved sex work to assist in improving quality of life and reaching individualized goals. www.shiftcalgary.org

For more information, please contact:

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