



Challenging Myths and Misperceptions:
*Working with the Media to Reduce Stigma and Enhance Public
Understanding of People who Work in the Sex Industry*

When: January 16 & 17, 2009

Where: The Bedford Regency Hotel, Victoria, BC, Canada

Organizing team: Cecilia Benoit, Leah Shumka & Kate Vallance,
Women's Health Research Network (WHRN) Vancouver Island Hub

AGENDA

Friday, January 16, 2009 ~ Public Lecture

6:00 pm	Welcome and introductions	Cecilia Benoit, (Co-leader, WHRN)
6:15 - 6:45 pm	Sex work policy environments	Fran Shaver, (Concordia University)
6:45 - 7:45 pm	Sex industry in New Zealand, before and after decriminalization	Gillian Abel (University of Otago) & Lisa Fitzgerald (University of Queensland)
7:45 - 8:00 pm	Question and answer	Cecilia Benoit
8:00 - 9:00 pm	Reception (wine and cheese) Official 'launch' of two new publications sponsored by the WHRN	

Saturday, January 17, 2009 ~ Workshop

8:30 am	Breakfast	
9:00 am	Welcome & goals of the day	Leah Shumka (WHRN hub coordinator)
9:15 - 9:30am	Conceptualizing stigma	Cecilia Benoit
9:30 - 10:00am	Historical media representations of sex industry workers	Helga Hallgrimsdottir (University of Victoria)
10:00 - 10:30am	Media representations of the sex industry – pre and post decriminalization	Gillian Abel & Lisa Fitzgerald
10:30 - 11:00am	Courtesy stigma among frontline service workers	Chris Leischner (PEERS), Lauren Casey & Rachel Phillips (University Victoria)
11:00 - 11:30am	Discussion	
11:30 - 12:30	Lunch	
12:30 - 1:00pm	Media challenges when reporting on the sex industry	Jody Paterson (Columnist with the Victoria Times Colonist)
1:00 - 1:30pm	Inside perspectives on developing a training curriculum and informing the public about the realities of sex workers	Susan Davis & Dagmar Jikeli (West Coast Co- operative of Sex Industry Professionals)
1:30 - 3:00pm	Small group discussion (coffee and light snacks will be served)	
3:00 - 4:00pm	Summary of ideas and strategies for moving forward	Leah Shumka & Kate Vallance (WHRN hub coordinator)
4:00pm	Closing remarks	Cecilia Benoit

