

Date: _____

Dear: _____

I am writing to offer my support for the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*, which was introduced in response to the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling in *R. v. Bedford*, and came into effect December 6, 2014. I understand that the new laws will be soon be reviewed.

The PCEPA is modeled after an approach often called the Nordic Model of law, first enacted in Sweden in 1999. This model is based on the recognition that prostitution is overwhelmingly a form of exploitation and systemic violence against women, and a deterrent to equality between the sexes. This model recognizes that the vast majority of individuals in prostitution are not there by way of choice, but rather as a result of poverty, economic constraint, marginalization, racialization, abuse or coercion.

Canada's new laws boldly challenge the assumption that buying sex is an inevitable in our society, and recognize that the most effective means of curbing commercial sexual exploitation is to target the demand for paid sex. As such, the purchase of sex is now illegal in Canada, for the first time. At the same time, those who are being prostituted are not subject to criminal charges, except under specific circumstances.

This is an important step forward in the fight against commercial sexual exploitation, one I am fully supportive of. As your constituent, I ask you to support the laws when they are reviewed.

But in order for this approach to be most successful, those who are prostituted must be provided with viable options and alternatives. We need to address the social conditions that drive individuals to prostitution or make them vulnerable to it, and we need to help those who are in to get out. When the legislation was introduced, the previous government made an initial commitment of \$20 million to support programs and services assisting individuals in exiting prostitution.

I also hope you will consider not only renewing this commitment to financial support for exit supports and services, but also translating it to increased, long-term sustained federal funding to help ensure that every individual who wants to exit prostitution has access to the resources and supports they need.

Sincerely,

Signature: _____

Address: _____
