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# Statement Déclaration

For immediate release

Également disponible en français

## **PARLIAMENT ABANDONS SEX WORKERS, DENIES THEIR RIGHT TO HEALTH AND SAFETY**

*Bill C-36, now law, will have deadly results for sex workers in Canada*

**November 6, 2014** — The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network is profoundly disappointed that the Government of Canada has rejected reason, evidence and even the *Canadian Charter for Rights and Freedoms* by giving Royal Assent to Bill C-36, the so-called *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*. This new law, which runs counter to the spirit and letter of the Supreme Court of Canada's 2013 ruling in *R. v. Bedford*, will undoubtedly result in unspeakable harms against sex workers.

The Government of Canada has chosen to pass a law that is deeply flawed, effectively replicating the effects of the old law and reproducing the very harms the Supreme Court of Canada found to be unconstitutional. We firmly believe it will not withstand constitutional scrutiny; yet again, our courts will be forced to overturn regressive policy, the brainchild of misguided ideologues.

In the interim, while theoretical for many involved in the passing of this law, the physical, social and psychological harms that this law will perpetuate are all too real for sex workers. We are concerned for the health and safety of our friends, colleagues and community members, and we continue to stand with them in solidarity.

For further information on how Bill C-36 flouted the Supreme Court of Canada's 2013 ruling, and how, as law, it will harm sex workers, please read *Reckless Endangerment (Q&A)* at <http://www.aidslaw.ca/publications/publicationsdocEN.php?ref=1438>.

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### **For more information, please contact:**

Janet Butler-McPhee  
Director of Communications and Advocacy  
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network  
[jbutler@aidslaw.ca](mailto:jbutler@aidslaw.ca)  
416-595-1666 ext. 228  
[www.aidslaw.ca](http://www.aidslaw.ca)