

## Deputation to the Committee of the Whole - York Region on October 14-2021

Mr. Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Robert Vallée.

I am Board Chair & CEO of Parents Against Child Trafficking in Markham & Richmond Hill

Thank you.

I'll begin with KUDOS, KUDOS and more KUDOS to Mayor Taylor and Newmarket Council.

This past June, they passed their NEW legislation that prohibits all sexual activity in commercial/retail establishments thereby enabling them to shut down body rub parlours and bogus wellness centers within their jurisdiction.

Fact is Newmarket is the 5<sup>th</sup> jurisdiction in York Region to NOT license HAPPY ENDINGS businesses.

They joined King City, Georgina, East Gwillimbury and Stouffville in that regard.

But, 4 municipalities remain active as 'friendly' jurisdictions to illegal businesses of sexual services for sale.

They are Markham, Vaughan, Richmond Hill and Aurora.

Which brings us here today.

Be advised that our goal is to make the FULL region of York the FIRST zone in Ontario FREE from Sex Trafficking and the Sexual Exploitation of Women from Prostitution.

Step #1 in getting there is to secure the remaining 4 municipalities' agreement to abide by Canada's Criminal Code and to enforce it by charging the criminal operators.

Since 2015, the Code's Section 286.2 clearly states:

***"It is illegal to earn money by owning, managing or working for a commercial enterprise, such as a strip club, massage parlour or escort agency, knowing that sexual services are purchased there."***

And, from our investigation, those crimes do occur in the 135+ bogus spas and 3 strip clubs operating in York Region.

Step #2, I am asking you, as a Regional Council, to request of the Attorney-General of Ontario, Doug Downey, that he amend the Ontario Municipality Act of 2001. ASAP!!!

Specifically, amend section 154 that pertains to adult entertainment venues and body rub parlours.

Imagine, the AG introducing in the Legislature an amendment that makes strip clubs, bogus massage parlours and escort agencies a thing of the past.

Step #3: I am asking you to request of the Solicitor General, Sylvia Jones, that her Ministry increase the enforcement powers of by-law enforcement personnel to make arrests at commercial establishments that sell sexual services in defiance of the law.

Why, you ask?

Because, on the body rub front, York Regional Police has **been missing in action since 2017**.

YRP knows that criminal offenses are committed within BRPs but they are not interested in them.

The proof of that last claim comes from two YRP sources:

Firstly, in 2020, Police Chief MacSween cancelled the investigation into Markham's 50+ body rub parlours/wellness centers that his predecessor, Police Chief Jolliffe, had ordered on our behalf and was already underway for 5 months.

Secondly, Detective Truong of Project Raphael fame with 104 men charged in 2017.

One local newspaper, The Auroran, quoted Det. Truong 3 times in the same article as to the charges laid:

**#1: "Our police agency is NOT INTERESTED in investigating prostitution unless it involves children under 18 or human trafficking."**

**#2: "We really did not want to IDENTIFY any of the men who were NOT looking to buy prostituted children."**

**#3: "York Regional Police has NO INTEREST in making arrests for prostitution involving 'consenting adults'."**

His Boss, Deputy PC Bigras, was in attendance and he did NOT correct Truong.

Once again, let's increase the enforcement powers of by-law enforcement personnel to make arrests at the 135 commercial establishments in York Region that sell sexual services in defiance of the law.

Shortly, you will hear Ms. Petrella, our Executive Director of the Council of Women Against Sex Trafficking in York Region, outline the regulations and by-laws which Newmarket designed and implemented.

I look forward to answering your questions after her deputation.

Thank you.



Robert Vallée

Board Chair & CEO

Parents Against Child Trafficking – Markham & Richmond Hill, and  
Council of Women Against Sex Trafficking in York Region

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