



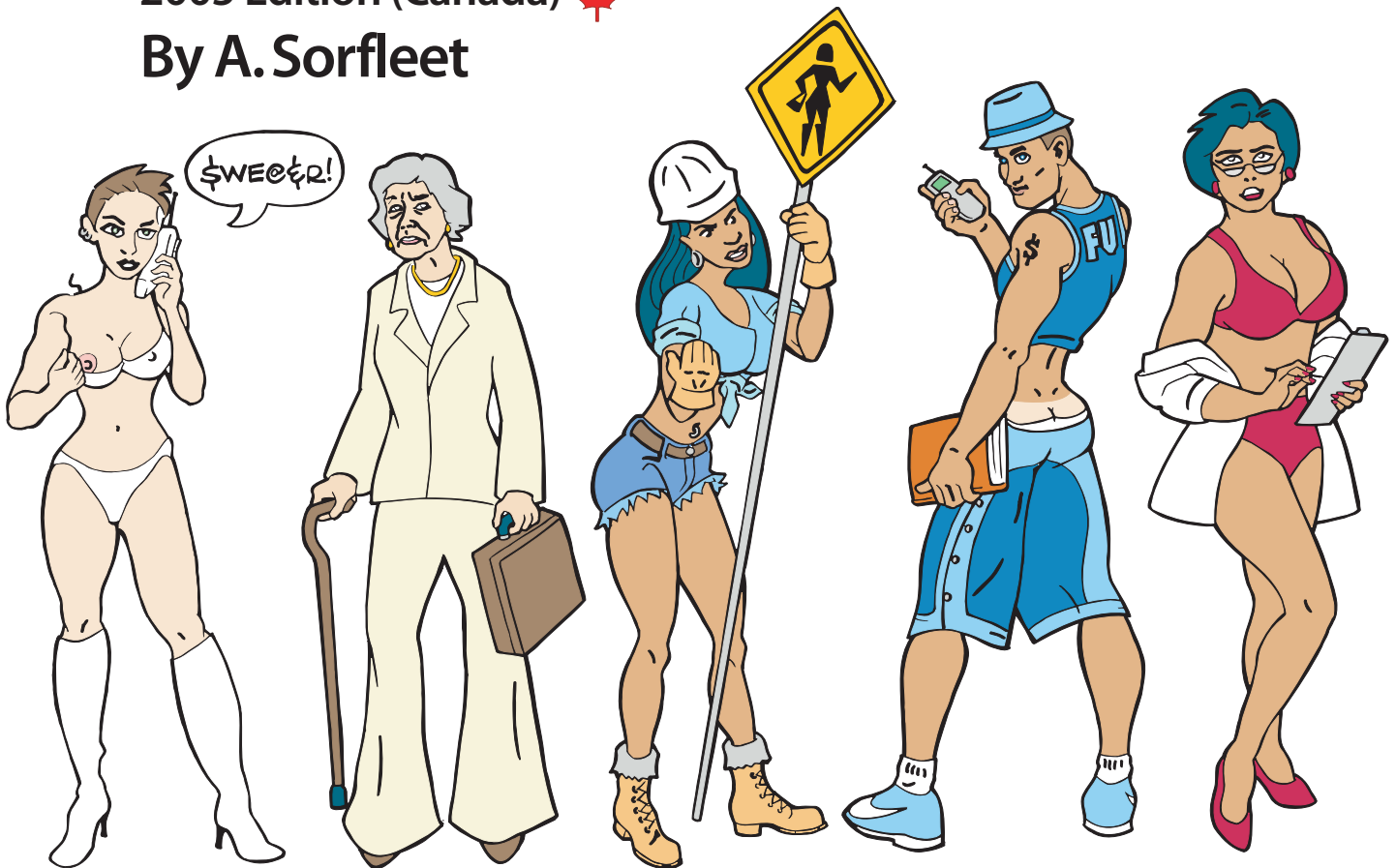
\$ex, Work, Education, Advocacy & Research!

Sex Workers' Workbook

Where YOU regulate the sex industry

2005 Edition (Canada) 

By A. Sorfleet





About the author

Andrew Sorfleet is 40 years old and still an outspoken and dedicated activist. He has worked as a prostitute since 1989 — on the street, for escort services, in a massage parlour and as an independent advertiser. He was a founding member of the Sex Workers Alliance of Toronto; educational director for the Toronto Prostitutes' Community Service Project (Maggie's); member and webmaster of the international Network of Sex Work Projects since 1992; and, for the past ten years, coordinator for the Sex Workers Alliance of Vancouver.

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Additional copies available from: <http://www.swear.ca>.

This book is dedicated to all of the sex workers who engaged in the struggle for human rights and dignity: Danny Cockerline, Penny Hoar, Paulo Longo, Elizabeth Spedding, Fiona Stewart, and so many others.

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CANADA

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Welcome to \$WE@&R!

Where YOU regulate the sex industry

\$ex, Work, Education, Advocacy & Research! (\$WE@&R!) is all about the sex industry in Canada and how it should — or could — be regulated. \$WE@&R! is a fun way to learn about laws and regulations that affect the sex industry. The \$WE@&R! workbooks will present you with various scenarios, and then ask you for your opinions about related laws and regulations. Once you have gone through the workbooks and answered all the questions, you can send us your completed survey and we will forward it to the Canadian government.

About \$WE@&R!

\$WE@&R! began with an idea to create a fun and easy-to-use way to gather opinions from workers in the sex industry about laws, policies, regulations and benefits. We wanted to create an alternative to academic research — something that encouraged community development and greater worker involvement in legal reforms that affect work life.

\$WE@&R! started as a proposal to the Law Commission of Canada, and was inspired by YouthSpeak, a manual for foster kids on how to run their own forums and gather feedback about the quality of their foster care. Without the generous support of the Law Commission of Canada, and our many other supporters, this project could never have happened.

About the Law Commission

The Law Commission of Canada is an independent federal agency established by an Act of Parliament in 1997. Its mandate is to advise Parliament on improvements to, and modernization and reform of, Canadian law. The Commission reports directly to the Minister of Justice. The following principles guide its work:

- its process must be open, inclusive, and accessible to all Canadians
- it must view the law and the legal system in a broad social and economic context
- it must strive to be responsive and accountable, by working in partnership with a wide range of interested groups and individuals
- it must be innovative in its research methods
- it must take account of the impact of the law on different groups and individuals when making its recommendations

For more information, see <http://www.lcc.gc.ca>.



How to \$WE@&R!

The \$WE@&R! *Sex Workers' Workbook* is made up of five individual workbooks: *Sex, Work, Education, Advocacy* and *Research!*. You can complete these workbooks in any order you like. Throughout the workbooks you will find questions asking you for your opinions about particular laws, regulations or by-laws that affect the sex industry workplace.

Questions in the \$WE@&R! workbooks ask for nothing but your opinions. You are never asked to disclose any personal information about yourself. There are no incriminating questions about your occupation, your experiences, or your activities.

- **Education** is a great place to begin. It describes and explains some of the history of the social attitudes and regulations that have been imposed on prostitutes. You will find information on Canada's laws, the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, law reform in other countries, and the various levels of competing legal jurisdictions in Canada.
- **Work** describes and explains workplace laws. It also discusses wages, health and safety, employee benefits, professional associations and trade unions.
- **Sex** describes and explains in detail public health laws related to contagious diseases and sexually transmitted infections. It contains nitty-gritty details and photos of these diseases.
- **Advocacy** describes and explains how to be an advocate for yourself and for others. It includes user-friendly instructions for starting sex worker groups, networking, public education and other political activities.
- **Research!** compiles in a single survey all of the questions contained in the other \$WE@&R! workbooks. Once you've completed the other workbooks, you have the opportunity to answer all the questions a second time, in light of new information you may have acquired. Send us your completed Research survey, and we'll forward it to the Canadian government. You have the option to include your name and address with your opinions, if you wish. (Legal petitions require names and addresses, as well as signatures.) Another option is to answer all of the questions in Research first. Then, after completing the other workbooks, you could compare your answers. It's up to you. Additional copies of the Research survey are available at <http://www.swear.ca>.

Available in PDF: The *Sex Workers' Workbook* is 174 pages. It can be printed in black and white, or in full colour; front and back, then hole-punched and put in a 1/2-inch three-ring binder. You can print your own tab dividers on Avery five-tab index maker labels (11436).

We hope you'll find the \$WE@&R! *Sex Workers' Workbook* an educational, entertaining and valuable resource. If you have any questions, please visit the \$WE@&R! website at <http://www.swear.ca>, or send us an e-mail at swear@walnet.org.

Bon appétit!



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