# Appendix D – History and Research to Support Recommendations of Body Rub Parlours

## History Information – Body Rub Parlours and Escorts in Winnipeg

"Sex Work and City Planning: Winnipeg's Red-Light District Committee and the Regulation of Prostitution By Steven A. Kohm and John Selwood – Institute of Urban Studies – 2003"

This research provides the origins of Massage Parlours and Escort Services in Winnipeg. "By the latter 1980s, Winnipeg, like most Canadian cities, began to see a need for some kind of control over the location and proliferation of off-street sex businesses, like massage parlours and escort services. Consequently, these types of businesses were given an official place in the land use categories of Winnipeg's Zoning By-law, and were slotted into the Licensing By-law along with other forms of mainstream business in the city".

Research Information Link -
https://winnspace.uwinnipeg.ca/bitstream/handle/10680/358/sexandcity.pdf?sequence=1

## Current Licensed Establishments in Winnipeg

### Body Rub Parlours/Body Rub Practitioners

Currently Winnipeg has two Body Rub Parlour businesses licenced under the Doing Business in Winnipeg By-Law 91/2008. The annual fee for this licence is $5,070.00. Zoning restrictions apply to these businesses which fall under the adult entertainment category.

Persons working in a body rub parlour as a body rub practitioner require a body rub practitioner licence, which currently costs $371.00. Currently there are approximately 50 active body rub practitioners licenses.

### Escorts/Independent Escort and Escort Agencies

Escorts/Independent Escorts agencies and Escort agencies are regulated under the Doing Business in Winnipeg By-Law 91/2008. Zoning restrictions apply to these businesses which fall under the adult entertainment category.

There is one active Independent Escort Agency License held under this By-Law which require two license fees; Independent Escort Agency: $2,530.00 and Escort: $371.00

Currently there are no active Escort Agencies with active licences. The annual fee for this license is $5,070.00.

**Recent Supporting Research:**

1. "Tania Kajner Consulting & Associates – Edmonton - April 27, 2020 - Research Report on Body Rub Centre Licencing".

Key Findings similar to Winnipeg's, recommendations;

- Continue to focus on a harm reduction approach that will contribute to workers safety
- Mandatory course for body rub practitioners, which provides an overview of employment standards, regulations, laws, rights and health information for workers.
- Security cameras and alert systems as best practice

Research information Link - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c2wZiPA0wB2GoK__IosawAzNdtJpu3kl/view?form=MY01SV&OCID=MY01SV

2. "Executive Director, Municipal Licencing and Standards - Toronto – May 6, 2019 - Review of Body Rub Parlour and Holistic Centre By-Law – Consultations and Research Findings".

   Research Findings to support a new approach to regulating these industries based on the principles of ensuring the health, safety and well-being of workers; consumer protection; and ensuring the general well-being of the City of Toronto, including mitigating community impacts.

Recommendations being considered similar to Winnipeg's recommendations;

- Remove licensing requirements for practitioners
- Increase safety requirements in the Body Rub Parlour By-Law
- Require alert systems in BRP Rooms
- Permitting cameras in designated areas of BRPs for security purposes
- Requiring management staff of BRP to be Licenced
- Process to provide educational information which may help individuals at risk

Research information link - https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/gl/bgrd/backgroundfile-132769.pdf

3. "Winnipeg Regional Health Authority – Position Statement on Harm Reduction – Published December 2016"

Key statements that supports our approach;

- Street-based sex work in Winnipeg can be dangerous, with 222 'bad dates' and street hassles recorded between 2002 and 2007 (Comack & Seshia, 2010). These dangers are in part produced

by criminalization, for example by making it more difficult to properly screen clients when street-based sex work are displaced to isolated areas (Sex Workers United Against Violence et al., 2014).

- Sex workers working outdoors have expressed interest in 'safer work environments' (Seshia, 2010), like those explored in British Columbia (Krüsi et al., 2012).
- The harms associated with sex work derive primarily from the contexts and environments surrounding sex work.

Research information link - https://serc.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/HarmReduction-wrha.pdf

4. City of Regina is currently moving towards a harm reduction approach to support practitioner's safety.

Regulations in place similar to what Winnipeg is proposing;

- Education program for practitioners
- Panic alarms in close access to rooms