



# DEBATES OF THE SENATE

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2nd SESSION • 41st PARLIAMENT • VOLUME 149 • NUMBER 68

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JUSTICE  
Sex Trade Industry

Question by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

**THE SENATE**

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*[Translation]***JUSTICE****SEX TRADE INDUSTRY**

**Hon. Claudette Tardif:** Mr. Leader, you said that the government was developing a made-in-Canada model. I'd like to know what is the difference between Canada and Sweden that justifies this significant divergence from the basic principle of the Swedish model, which doesn't criminalize victims for being exploited.

**Hon. Claude Carignan (Leader of the Government):** From what I understand of your question, you support Bill C-36, which is precisely intended not to criminalize prostitutes, but to restrict the

criminal prohibitions and convictions to those who profit from vulnerable people — specifically johns and pimps.

**Senator Tardif:** Mr. Leader, your bill does more than that. The issue of prostitution is certainly a complicated one, but according to your proposal, prostitutes would be criminalized if they solicited potential johns near places of worship or places where children under the age of 18 might be present. You are going further than what's found in the Swedish model, and I'm asking why.

**Senator Carignan:** Senator, as you know, prostitution harms Canadian communities and our most vulnerable Canadians, so this bill was designed to protect our communities by making it illegal to purchase sexual services near public places where children could be present. I don't think I need to explain to you why that provision is important.

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