

Professional Communication – Persuasive Message

Subject: Keeping brothels illegal is good for Toronto-Danforth

Date: Saturday, June 2, 2012 2:00 PM

From: Arthur Robert <arthur@arrobot.com>

To: Scott John, MP <scottjohn@ndp.ca>

Dear Mr. John:

In March 2012, the Court of Appeal for Ontario struck down the province's ban on brothels. The Court also struck down the ban on “living off the avails” of prostitution, meaning that prostitutes in Ontario can now officially hire pimps, bodyguards and other employees needed to carry out the operation of this illegitimate business. I call it illegitimate, sir, simply because prostitution is *wrong* and should not be supported in any way by the state. And I believe you also know this in your heart, but you've let the supposed necessities of party politics cloud your judgement. I don't hold this against you, but I hope you can correct yourself.

You were advised by your NDP constituents that not supporting the legalization of brothels would be politically difficult in the hip, modern and liberal riding of Toronto-Danforth. Your constituents were wrong. I believe that you still would've won the by-election here even if you had stuck to your principles and admonished the legalization of brothels. I've attached to this email a petition with hundreds of signatures from TO-Danforth residents who are fully against brothels. How do I know these are your principles? Because you're Catholic, Mr. John, even though you may not attend church anymore. Tell me this – what would your beloved Father Le Loutre have thought about the legalization of brothels? Do you honestly believe that he would have supported your stance on this issue? I think that he would fight vehemently against prostitution and the legalization of brothels if he were living today.

Let's address some of the arguments. People might vote in support of brothels with the belief that it's a necessary service these sex workers are providing and brothels help keep them safe. But few people want brothels in their neighbourhood. Would you be OK with raising your family near a brothel? Prostitution attracts unsavoury characters who are often prone to violence. That is why prostitutes are regularly beaten and abused. What happens when a client gets a little pushy in the brothel? The bodyguard might be able to take care of him, but then the spurned man just gets shoved out into the street. And then what? Sometimes he may go home silently, bottling his anger inside. And sometimes he may come back with a shotgun.

You support the legalization of brothels, and yet you acknowledge that the proliferation of prostitution would be bad for society. A young woman from a low-income family may dream about becoming a social worker and decide that prostitution is a viable way to pay for school *only* because brothels have been legalized. You are therefore not only allowing prostitution, but *encouraging* it by legalizing brothels. And how about when that young woman decides that the money she's making as a prostitute is just too good to pass up, so she makes a full-time career out of it instead of going into social work? Who will you have to blame for that? And do you think that the upstanding citizens in this country will be OK with paying her EI once she runs out of work?

I've only mentioned a few of the compelling arguments against the legalization of brothels. I'd be happy to articulate more of them. As you'll see from the petition, there are many residents of TO-Danforth who want you to speak out in the House of Commons against prostitution. We don't expect you to immediately call for a reversal of the recent ruling, but at least express your reservations with it. That would be an honourable start.

Yours sincerely,
Mr. Arthur Robert
Concerned Toronto-Danforth Resident

Assignment #2, Grant Patten

Persona

SCOTT JOHN, 50-year-old MP from Toronto, Canada



"We have got to get away from this idea that sex workers are non-citizens or they don't have the same rights as other people."

Photo credit: by Flickr user "sperkyajachtu"
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Title Preference

His NDP party website simply uses "Scott"... Mr. or Dr. should be fine, but Dr. John is an American blues musician. Advisable to just go with Mr.

Personal Background

Scott was born and raised in Windsor, Nova Scotia into a well-off middle class family. His father was a businessman who ran the town's shopping mall. His mother was a full-time housekeeper who took care of him and his two older sisters. Scott's mother was a devout Catholic and made religion a major priority in their household. Scott's parents pushed him to succeed academically and he developed a strong interest in history. He became particularly fascinated by the history of his hometown, and he read everything he could about how the British abused the Mi'kmaq people and the Acadians in Windsor back in the 18th century. Father Le Loutre - who defended the Mi'kmaq and the Acadians against the British - became a hero of Scott's and inspired him to become a human rights lawyer.

Scott, who learned French growing up, decided to study history at McGill University. He then transferred to Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship, where he earned a second undergrad degree in philosophy, politics and economics. He then returned to McGill and earned his LLB there. He began practising law in Quebec but quickly branched out internationally, where he worked on human rights cases in South Africa, Bosnia and Honduras before returning to Canada.

After the passing of the New Democratic Party's leader, Jack Layton, Scott was elected as the NDP's new MP in the riding of Toronto-Danforth. Scott has spoken out in support of the Ontario Court of Appeal's 2012 decision to legalize brothels and "living off the avails" of prostitution. After getting involved in politics, Scott became much less religious but still considers himself Catholic.

More About Scott

Goals/Needs

Scott has a genuine concern for human rights, but he has flip-flopped on certain issues in the past. E.g., on abortion, he went from being pro-life to pro-choice after getting involved in politics.

The necessities of party politics likely convinced him to change his position on some issues. Scott wants to do the right thing but needs to be convinced that it won't destroy him politically.

Engagement & Activities

Computer Usage: Above average

Internet Presence: Strong – regularly blogs on his party's website. Made a promise on his blog that he'll read and respond to every email that he receives

Mobile Usage: Strong – uses mobile apps

Social Networking: Strong – engaged regularly in Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Google+

Favourite TV Show: Power & Politics with Evan Solomon

Favourite Book: *The Far Reaches of Empire: War in Nova Scotia, 1710-1760* by John Grenier

References

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