Sexuality & Evolution

Desire, Love & Work Part II –

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Sexuality Regulations in Canada

Amidst the many challenges that sprouted norms during the years of the Cold War, sexual revolutions become one of the complex and lasting challenge. It was an internationally felt social change, not just in Canada nor just in the northern part of America. Historians have progressively questioned the historical norms of sexual and family relations because of the ideologies they reveal as well as exclude concerning the Canadian citizens. It is both evident and provocative to state that sexuality has been and is still at the heart of the Canadian projects. The family idea as the central productive unit is a dominant theme in Canada whether one considers the century New France- *filles de roi* from the 18th century, the 1860s Vancouver Island’s bride ships, or even the attempts to recruit entire families to settle the west. So prevalence, in fact, as to be widely unspoken. Over the years the government of Canada has laid out different rules and regulations to govern sexual behaviors and identities among its citizens.

The rights of Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) in Canada are among the most advanced issues facing America and the world as a whole. Same- sex activities especially among men was considered a capital crime during the British North American period and resulted in a death penalty. However, there are no records pertaining the execution of that law as executive figures were hesitant in enforcing the law. The death penalty was soon repealed and in its place came a broader bill that involved gross indecency amid men which were in most cases implemented towards the end of the 19th century. During the first half of the 20th century, the law often depicted gays as sex offenders until Everett Klippert was detained indefinitely after he confessed to having sex with several men. (Bialystok et al., 2017). Mr. Klippert’s sentence in Canada triggered a public debate over whether gay men should be detained for their sexual activities alongside the rights of homosexuals in general. However, the Canadian government later approved a specific law referred to as the omnibus bill. The law was meant to decriminalize private sexual behavior between two individuals with the age of twenty-one years and above. It was an ideal goal towards protecting the rights of gays, bisexuals, and lesbians (Johnson et al., 2018). The Trudeau regime’s Omnibus Bill reformed other features involving Canada’s criminal code.

Legalization of abortion, decriminalization of homosexuality and the official recognition of contraceptives were among the significant changes introduced into the lives of the Canadians. The reformations to the guidelines regulating abortion, homosexuality, and contraception created repercussions that echoed all over the Canadian culture, as well as affected different politics decades later (Johnson et al., 2018). Ten years later, in the year 1977, Quebec grew to be the first authority in Canada to modify its provincial charter in regards to human rights and sexual orientation, being the prohibited root of inequality. The spectrum of gender and erotic diversity recorded in those periods of early contact implied that same-sex relationships were viewed to be of political and moral consequence.

Fighting for homosexual’s rights is indeed a representative of higher social trends. The western democracies have already started to legalize the marriages that involve gays and lesbians. However, there are still some belief systems that offer a stronger measure justifying social resistance (Brotto, 2016). The beliefs systems are entirely against the legalization of homosexuality. The record of attempted regulations and state resistance in regards to sexual orientation within Canada is long and dreadful. For almost fifty years, the Canadian agents spied on, interrogated and more so harassed lesbians and gays. The spying took place under the appearance of national security. As from the 1950s up to 1990s, the enforcement groups led by Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) followed up the homosexuals as they considered them a threat to the community. Besides, the enforcement groups came up with some strategies to identify them and also face up their targets. Some high-ranking officials and civil servants in Canada regime together with their families and close friends were expected to go through different tests. Ideally, these tests were purposely done to separate their sexuality.

Unlike the case in Canada, the actions and policies enacted by many countries throughout the world seemed to go against abortions, homosexuality, and lesbianism. These policies posed a clear risk towards heterosexual nuclear family motivation behind postwar re-enactment (Cao et al., 2017). The director of FBI called J. Edgar Hoover significantly led attempts with the aim of exposing Communist infiltrators publicly. The exposure happened in the United States in the 1940s (Brotto, 2016). During that period, Joseph Stalin the former wartime collaborator and a Soviet tyrant was as well ready to spearhead a communist alliance that involved China and Eastern Europe. Red scare was a Communism fear that profoundly affected the Western Nations, while the democratic heads declared the threats of possible communist ideology. In fact, Canadian government as well hand established some rules meant to drive away the dangers of Communist at home.

Canadians and their government considered themselves more tolerant, liberal and reliable in the 1940s. They believed they were better than their counterparts, in America. It could be right in those years though, in Canada, Communism was viewed as a significant threat to both the government and the society. However, how much of the idea was right or wrong? Communism acted accordingly in the state. In the year 1946 may, the Liberal government formed the Security Panel. The panel comprised of the Chiefs of Defense Staff, Cabinet’s senior representatives, External Affairs as well as the RCMP. The security Panel developed a specific screening program purposely for the public service. Besides, the program kept matters in regards to security hidden from public scrutiny. The RCMP went through the society of Canada as an independent reasonable police force, while aiming at the potential Communists. They also targeted individuals who may or might not have had any attachment to Soviet bloc. Moreover, the RCMP too focused on the trade unions the most all over the state since they suspended public liberties towards interrogating the left wingers with impending ties toward the Communist East. At some point and in the middle of the Cold War-driven confusion, fears developed into paranoia. On the other hand, homosexuality was associated with Communist surveillance. The Mounties had as well developed another physiological tool deliberately meant to distinguish homosexuality (Cao et al., 2017). Besides, Fruit Machine was designed to identify gay men by calculating the stimuli reactions of strapped-in individuals. The tool was never executed beyond experimental tests; instead, it shows the level to which illogical thought-controlled state activities were throughout the cold war.

The late 1960s, anti-homosexual eliminators, reached their peak point in Canada as well as in the United States. The acting Attorney General and Justice Minister in the year 1967, an immature Pierre Trudeau brought in a hugely controversial Omnibus Bill that made an infamous comment concerning sexuality and abortion. The comment made, indicated that there is no room for the country in the sleeping rooms of the public. In two years the same sex relationship was already approved. Although the smash up made by enforcement groups such as RCMP could not be repaired. However, in 1980s Charter of Rights was implemented thus, purging the sexuality challenges from Canada.

Gender impartiality and women empowerment remain central towards the realization of reproductive and sexual rights in Canada. Supporters for such rights have helped women to make critical decisions regarding their lives. Besides, they can make decisions on when to give birth, to whom and when to get married. However, discriminatory policies and laws and other harmful activities continually violate the sexual rights of girls and prominent women. Such rules include the ones that criminalize abortion, legalize female genital mutilation, failure to punish marital rapists and more so forced and early marriage (Freedman, 2017). The violations are grounded in gender stereotypes and norms that try to control the bodies of women and sexualities.

The Canadian government is known for protecting women rights and empowering them now and then. The liberal-leaning nature of the country influences the development of women in the entire world. A significant number of Canadian females have ventured into prostitution as a way of earning a living (Freedman. 2017). Therefore, the government has fully supported their idea by legalizing prostitution unlike in other nations. Through the law that seeks to protect communities and exploited persons, the Canadian government has made efforts to protect the rights of women especially those involved in sex work. The laws attempt to reduce the demand for sex work as well as safeguarding the sex workers from being exploited. The act also requires the sex workers to report any incidents of violence experienced in their workplaces as well as treat their sexual services as a valuable service. On the other hand, some individuals have seen this situation as immoral, and the big question is; who should be punished? The women who are trading their bodies for money or the men who are buying sex services? The Canadian Christians have condemned the act as it is biblically wrong (Hinchliff et al., 2016). Some European countries like Germany have also legalized prostitution on the subject of sex workers as bodies who can work self-sufficiently or on a contract basis.

In fact, the prostitutes comply with tax just like other workers. Revenue from prostitution has highly boosted the Canadian economy with some of the companies that have greatly benefited from prostitution being the cologne industries (Freedman, 2017). The general legalization of prostitution comes with substantial limitations that can be executed by Canadian metropolises regarding zoning as well as taxes. In other places like the Netherlands, the brothel owners’ have been forced to close down especially in Amsterdam. In the brothels, it was discovered that women were kept there in the name of prostitutes and later used as drug traffickers (Lyons et al., 2017). Therefore, prostitution is a hot topic not only in Canada but the entire world.

Age is a significant factor determining one’s ability to engage in prostitution. Each country has a particular period at which their young females can legally participate in sexual activities. In Canada, the law states that a woman above the age of 16 years has the freedom to trade their sex for money. The rule applies to all forms of sexual activities such as kissing, sexual intercourse among others (Freedman, 2017). However, there are few cases whereby the age limit for sexual activities is higher than sixteen years if there is need of relationship of trust and authority of dependency (Zimmer-Gembeck et al., 2015). Typically, an individual over sixteen years of age can independently agree to sexual activity legally.

Different individuals define pornography differently based on their culture and beliefs. In most cases, the word is used in Canadian debate to refer to materials that are sexual which could cause harm to the viewers. The pornographic materials are sexually explicit and could cause sexual urges to the viewers. The issue of pornography is covered in Canadian law section 163 which is against the child pornography. On the other hand, the Canadian criminal law has declared adult pornography as legal. Therefore, it is easy to get adult pornographic videos than obscene child materials. Adult materials can be obtained in movie shops, over the internet or in other shops selling entertainment materials.

Due to the growing social concerns and several topics being tabled in various debates, there was a bill concerning Canadian human right in 1996 that was meant to amend the act to accommodate sexual orientation. The reason that led to the need for this amendment is the willingness of the parliament to declare that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Canadians are equal to the rest of the citizens. The equality of all human enables everyone to have the lives that they wish to and do what they are comfortable doing. The human rights commission of Canada is meant to monitor the implementations of the act and gives more directions concerning the amendments and human sexual coordination (Lyons et al., 2017). Also, according to Canadian’s law that covers the fifteen states, every individual has an equal right regardless of their ethnicity, color, sexuality or mental disability.

Criticisms, growth as well as other actions are all involved in the Command's yearly reports. Passing of the law to be followed in case of civil marriages led to a significant change in sexual equality freedoms in 2015 (Hinchliff et al., 2016). The law has also been essential and beneficial to LGBT society as it offers them protection. Recently, Canada has been identified as one of the many countries where gay marriage and children adoption are increasing. The state has been developing in all sectors including healthcare whereby average class parents adopt the destitute and needy children.

The Canadian government has dramatically protected its citizen against stigma. Every person is equal before the law whether gay, lesbian, homosexual, transgender or a prostitute. Moreover, people have the freedom of creating the kind of family they are comfortable with, and thus gay couples can freely adopt kids in Canada. Although the government and society do not quite follow through with all that is said to be, both have contributed significantly towards shaping the Canadian community.

In conclusion, it’s evident that the government of Canada has undergone a lot of challenges in the quest of shaping the sexual behavior and identity for its citizens. The various legislations enacted over the years have brought equality among its citizens irrespective of their gender and sexual preferences. Women have as well been uplifted from being oppressed by the general society. Their bodies are no longer considered as engines of population growth and are no longer treated as the property of state but as any other Canadian citizen. However, it is essential for the government to organize for sex education classes to young children or include it in their curriculum to create a culture and understanding of sexuality as they grow up. Also, the society should consider birth control to protect the numbers engaging in prostitution from reproducing too many kids than they cannot bring up comfortably. Also, with the high levels of sexual liberty across all genders, it is necessary that the government creates public awareness of dangers of sexually transmitted disease to safeguard its populace.

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