

Producer Bios:

Carly Forbes has been National Coordinator of GroundWire Community Radio News for 3 years. As spoken word coordinator for CFRU, she co-founded Guelph Prison Radio and Earful of Queer. She now volunteers at CILU in Thunder Bay and produces documentaries for WINGS.

Frieda Werden retires May 31 from being Spoken Word Coordinator at CJSF. She's on Groundwire's steering committee and is Series Producer for WINGS: Women's International News Gathering Service, a syndicated radio program by and about women around the world.

Program Description:

"Canada v. Bedford" was produced immediately after the Supreme Court decision striking down 3 of the laws criminalizing sex work (living off the avails, communicating for the purposes of prostitution and maintaining a bawdy house). Both producers had covered the case for several years so we had lots of sound to draw on. The story was released in both Groundwire and WINGS on the same day, December 30th, 2013. It was in Groundwire's Year in Review edition (produced by Selina Wall and Frieda Werden at CJSF, with Carly Forbes as Groundwire National Coordinator). It's longer than most Groundwire pieces, 9:24, but we felt the length was justified to give time to express some of the complexity of the issue. There are (at least) two prominent movements of women's activism based on very different views and experiences around sex work / prostitution. The story shows how both were active around the Supreme Court case, and now work to influence the government response mandated by the Court. The voices of women from both these movements are almost never heard side by side, point by point, as they are in this story. Everyone's statements seem very heartfelt, and they make their goals clear.