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*Crimes against children  
go beyond borders  
Justice for children  
should as well!*

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# Beyond Borders Newsletter

*Ensuring Global Justice for Children*

**Issue No. 3**

**Fall 2003**

## **What No Child Should Endure**

**R.v Edmondson, Kindrat and Brown**

*By Rosalind Prober*

"I thought Pocahontas was a movie" a 12 year old aboriginal girl heard one of three men say as she sat alone on the steps of a bar they were leaving in Chelan, Saskatchewan on September 30, 2001. It was late Sunday afternoon and **Trevor Edmondson, Jeffrey Brown and Jeffrey Kindrat** had been drinking and playing VLTs. One of the men offered her a ride saying "Don't worry, you can trust us."

The last thing on this grade 7's mind was that this friendly threesome would get her drunk, then take her to an isolated gravel road to have sex with her on the hood of a truck. The last thing imaginable to her was that many hours later she would be dropped off at a friend's house, and immediately driven to the hospital, injured and hysterical. The last thing on her mind was that children could possibly be blamed in a court of law for their own injuries and victimization.

The victim's story never changed during countless police and crown attorney interviews, at the preliminary hearing and two trials, in media interviews, to doctors and to her parents and friends. What she said happened after she ran away and ended up 11 kilometres from home was exactly as Edmondson, in a video taped interview with RCMP, confessed had happened. The men spotted her as she sat outside a bar. She was less than 5 feet tall and weighed 87 lbs. She told them she was 14 and from Saskatoon. The men had three choices: 1.Help her get home, 2.Ignore her, or 3.Use their economic, cultural, gender and age advantage, to do whatever they wanted with her. They chose the latter. **Surely no one is cruel or foolish enough to suggest that this 12 year old waif knew the legal age of consent and used it as a come-on.**

According to the child victim, they picked her up and took her to a bar in another town for more drinks. After buying more beer they drove to a lonely road and in their drunken state all tried to have sex with her on the hood of the vehicle. Edmondson went first and then he held her for the others. They were all charged with sexual assault.

The difficult thing for these men to do would have been to acknowledge their disgusting behaviour, accept responsibility for their actions, and try to make amends



**Beyond Borders is a Canadian affiliate of  
ECPAT International**

*End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the  
Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes*

Bangkok, Thailand [www.ecpat.net](http://www.ecpat.net)

in every way possible. Instead, they chose the easy route: denial and blame, by lawyering up and turning on the young girl they had so callously used for their own sexual gratification. **It is astounding that in Canada adults can legally have sex with 14 years olds or any age child if they take “all reasonable steps” to determine a child is of age.** Whether or not these three men were aware of the age of consent, (unlike most Canadians), whether they consulted a Pocket Criminal Code before the drunk girl’s pants were removed, or whether they hired lawyers who informed them much later of this legal loophole, is anyone’s guess. We do know, the threesome saw an opportunity to use the age of consent of 14 and they were relentless. They portrayed her in court as a “willing participant”, a sexual “aggressor” who was giving them the “green light”, “taking charge” jumping on them asking for “more, more”!

When evidence was admitted that the girl was perhaps sexually abused by her Dad (who was never charged and is perhaps totally innocent), he was targeted and blamed as the cause of her vaginal physical injuries. When no DNA of the accused was found in the girl’s underwear, a cigarette butt discarded near the courthouse by her Dad was examined. His DNA matched that found in her underwear. Then a doctor testified inaccurately that sexually abused children are “usually” sexually aggressive, thus giving credibility to the defence theory that she was out of control because of her previous abuse history and she just got what she asked for.

After finding that gross violations of children’s rights and many unacceptable acquittals of very guilty perpetrators were occurring in the courts, many Canadian jurisdictions have put in place strict protections of child witnesses. Not in this case, where the victim became a sitting duck in a court room full of strangers. Now seized from her home as a result of the abuse allegations against her father, and living in foster care away from all the support of family, community, siblings and her normal life, it is remarkable

that this child held her own during the first trial involving Edmondson. However, after his conviction, the resulting racial tension, living in the fishbowl atmosphere of her small community with no anonymity, facing two more defence counsel, and re-telling her story to be accused again of lying - it finally became too much to bear. The spunky 12 year old was spunky no more. Kindrat and Brown were both acquitted. **No child should have to endure an experience in the courts like this one.**

Sexual assault is a serious crime and when committed on a 12 year old, a jail term is the usual sentence. Justice Kovach did not feel, however, that Edmondson’s crime merited the usual punishment of three years incarceration. Believing the accused that the victim had initiated sexual contact, Justice Kovach sentenced Edmondson to a conditional sentence of two years. During his charge to the jury, Justice Kovach purposely and continually referred to Kindrat and Brown as “the boys” and the victim as “Ms”, a feminist term usually describing women who are aware of their rights and ready to assert them. Why?

Defence has now appealed the conviction of Edmondson. Crown has appealed the acquittal of Kindrat and Brown and the house arrest of Edmondson. No doubt, defence counsel explained to their clients that using such a controversial defence as the “consenting sexually aggressor drunk 12 year old”, will result in media attention across the country. No doubt counsel explained as well that years of legal battles will ensue on the issue of “consent”, as this case sets a dangerous precedent and embarrasses Canada internationally. This case would be a slam dunk for the preteen in every other developed country except possibly Japan. No doubt the Department of Justice of Canada and those who control the children’s rights agenda in Ottawa, who have tenaciously insisted for years on keeping Canada’s age of consent at 14, even though the rights of Canada’s most vulnerable children were being violated in the courts, will be watching this case very, very closely. **No doubt, they should!**

**Beyond Borders** welcomes your feedback and financial support. Beyond Borders will be asking the Court of Appeal of Saskatchewan for intervener status in this case on the issue of the age of consent.

One of the most disturbing aspects of this case was that the accused argued that the fact the child said she was 14, was wearing makeup and sitting in front of a bar, were “reasonable steps” to determine her age as over 14. It is Beyond Borders’ position that when an accused person uses the defence that they took “all reasonable steps” before becoming sexually involved with a person under the age of 14, **“all reasonable steps” begin AFTER a child states his or her age.** The child’s location, the fact that makeup is worn etc., are all as insufficient as they are when a child enters a liquor store wearing makeup, claiming she is 18. At that point, vendors are obligated to ask the right questions to verify that they are not breaking the law by selling to minors. **At the very least shouldn’t the same standard apply to those wanting to have sex with young children?**

# Valentine Hearts and Flowers Fair

By Carole Rogers

February 8, 2003 dawned crisp and bright, a typical Winnipeg winter day, except for one thing. It was the day of the **Beyond Borders Valentine Hearts and Flowers Fair**, being held at St. George's Church. The aim was to raise funds and increase awareness of Beyond Borders' fight to end child sexual exploitation. I rushed over to help set up displays and was amazed by the number of eager volunteers already bustling about, unloading flowers, arranging sale items, and hanging decorations. There was Roz, on the move, handling a dozen things at once, but managing to look cool and in control. I soon became busy unloading gorgeous orchids and vibrant pots of amaryllis, for the sale tables.

While lugging a carton of delicate looking exotic flowers across to the appropriate display area, praying I wouldn't drop my precious cargo, I spied a well groomed, neatly dressed lady, wearing a navy pantsuit and white running shoes. She was also helping to arrange all these enticing sale items. Would you believe it was our honoured guest, **Debby Mahaffy**! I wondered what I could possibly say to her that would sound normal - what did one say when meeting a person whose daughter was a victim of such a cruel horrific crime! Well, she made it easy. She was down to earth, friendly, and approachable. Meeting her in person made me realize just what this day was all about.

Also in town to help make the fair a success, was **Nancy Embry** of Beyond Borders Toronto.

My most pleasant task was to organize the young children who had volunteered to mingle, serving sandwiches and dainties - a group of eager, bright-eyed youngsters, happily choosing their favourite coloured flower pins, and balloons to identify them as official servers.

By 11:30 the sale tables were set up. Vendors were ready for action, stationed amidst arrays of enchanting wares. Honorary media flower sellers were in their places. Silent auction donations were on display. Would there be a good crowd to make all the months of planning, organizing, and arranging this fundraising event worthwhile? We all held our collective breath!

Suddenly, the large church hall burst into a hive of activity. The next two hours became a blur of happy faces, chatting excitedly, devouring delicious open faced sandwiches, browsing specialty boutiques, dropping tickets in the silent auction, and hopefully making donations to Beyond Borders. Our media flower sellers, very visual in their flowered hats and aprons, were cheerfully performing their mission of attracting potential buyers. Even a certain radio personality, well known for his crusty demeanor, had donned a warm and fuzzy expression. My little band of children was doing a terrific job, a visible presence of the youthful innocence Beyond Borders is striving to preserve.

The spectacular event ended amidst an explosion of cracking and popping as hundreds of bright red balloons floated down from above, landing on the heads of unsuspecting but delighted guests. They were even more pleased if they grabbed a balloon tagged for a prize.

Was the Beyond Borders Hearts and Flowers Fair a success? Most definitely it was! I am pleased to report the donations and funds raised from silent auction, and sales etc., totalled over \$12,000. As for the exposure and awareness of **Beyond Borders as a leading edge pioneer in the elimination of Internet child sexual exploitation - Priceless!**



**Beyond Borders** thanks all the generous donors, and the many volunteers who gave their time, and energy to make the **Valentine Hearts and Flowers Fair** a huge success.

Beyond Borders is operated by a devoted group of volunteers who loan their expertise, time, and office space to help eliminate **child sexual exploitation**. All travel or conference expenses toward this worthy cause are handled by the individual volunteers.

Beyond Borders uses your kind donations to cover direct costs such as newsletter printing, computer supplies, and necessary legal fees for court interventions on behalf of abused children.

# Growing Problem Gets National Attention

By Nicole Suzanne Harris

Imagine that we had a national registry of all the child abductors in Canada, but we never used it to put them in jail because we didn't care about their crimes. That's pretty much what is happening in this country to people who are collecting and distributing child pornography. While the maximum sentence is 10 years, child pornographers rarely go to jail. The Criminal Intelligence Services of Canada estimates that within the next year internet child pornography investigations will reach record levels. Just two years ago, there were 245 international requests. Last year that number jumped to 419 and within the next year, law enforcement agencies within Canada anticipate more than 900 requests from international police to investigate Canadian child pornography links. In fact, it is becoming such an alarming problem that journalists across the world are now focusing more of their attention to researching and writing news stories about sexual predators and their exploits.

It is for this reason that I, on behalf of Beyond Borders, have launched the **National Media Awards** to recognize journalists who, through their work, have made an important contribution to raising the awareness of child exploitation in Canada.

As a former television anchor and reporter I know first hand just how important it is to educate the public about crimes that are occurring in their community, especially when it involves our children. It is important that we as parents and guardians realize the potential threat that is

out there and take steps to protect our children. The media can play a very important role in educating people about those hidden dangers, and we at Beyond Borders encourage journalists to continue helping to raise awareness against sexual exploitation of children.

The **Beyond Borders Inc. National Media Awards** are open to all television and print reporters who have published news stories that are helping to ensure global justice for children. If you have covered any stories dealing with child sexual exploitation within the last year, we would appreciate hearing from you. Entries can be submitted by journalists and/or news organizations based in Canada. Two monetary awards, one for print and one for television will be awarded to the winners on November 19, 2003, which is the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse.

I would like to say a very special thanks to all those journalists across the country who entered their submissions. Beyond Borders appreciates your insightful and informative work. I look forward to hearing from many other journalists across the country for next year's National Media Awards.

The deadline for the 2004 awards is October 31, 2004. Please send your published newspaper copies or a VHS tape of your stories to **Nicole Harris – Beyond Borders National Media Awards Organizer, 387 Broadway Avenue, Winnipeg Manitoba, R3C 0V5**. They can be emailed to: [nharriswpg@hotmail.com](mailto:nharriswpg@hotmail.com)

Beyond Borders would like to thank the Winnipeg law firm of  
**Booth Dennehy**  
for their generous donation to support the  
**National Media Awards.**

## New CD-ROM from ECPAT International

### ***The Psychosocial Rehabilitation of Child Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation***

This new CD-ROM features training and self-study materials for caregivers of sexually exploited children. **The Training Guide** will be useful when designing training programs for caregivers, with few resources and little formal training. **The Self-Study Materials** are geared to centres for street children and abused young people that employ new staff, but do not have the resources to provide training.

It is available from ECPAT International by emailing [info@ecpat.net](mailto:info@ecpat.net), or downloading print version from [http://www.ecpat.net/eng/Ecpat\\_inter/projects/training\\_caregivers/training.asp](http://www.ecpat.net/eng/Ecpat_inter/projects/training_caregivers/training.asp)

# Sexually Exploited Youth and the Media

By Barbara Barnett-Fontaine

**Beyond Borders** is taking part in a new initiative spearheaded by **Marymount** in response to recent local media coverage that incorrectly and inappropriately identified young female residents of a Marymount group home as “young prostitutes”.

Marymount Development and Communications Officer **Deborah Zanke**, who chairs the committee, states that following the encounter her agency had with the media lead to the discovery that inappropriate coverage occurs frequently. “After talking to others who work closely with sexually exploited youth, we realized that media stories often present sexually exploited youth in a way that ignores their victimization and minimizes the culpability of perpetrators that prey them.”

**The Sexually Exploited Youth and the Media Committee** is comprised of representatives from numerous organizations working with sexually exploited young people including, the Manitoba Women’s Advisory Council, TERF (Transition, Education and Resources for Females), Winnipeg Child and Family Services, Ma Mawi, Nadaawin and Thunderbird House, and Manitoba Family Services and Housing. In addition, a Creative Communications student from Red River College has joined the Committee to provide insight from the media’s perspective.

The Committee will work to help change the language used by local print, radio and TV media from describing the survivors of child sexual exploitation in negative terms that depict them as consenting participants to language that more accurately reflects their victimization.

In an effort to achieve this goal, the Committee will:

- analyze how media currently portrays stories involving sexually exploited youth to exemplify undesirable language and tone;
- identify individuals in the local media who are responsive to the goals of the Committee to influence change;
- share information with local editorial boards and media directors to raise awareness of the issue;
- invite young people involved to help personalize the issue;
- act as a media “watchdog” to monitor success and to identify incorrect and inappropriate reporting; and
- explore the possibility of launching a media awareness campaign about the realities of sexual exploitation.

The Committee recently had its second meeting and is planning a presentation for students of the Creative Communications program at Red River College.

## Why the Sex Offender Registry Should Be Open to the Public

**Excerpts from Presentation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights on  
Bill C23 – Sex Offender Registry  
Presented by Rosalind Prober and Mark Hecht**

“In a vast country like Canada, with a tremendous number of remote isolated communities, convicted abusers can and do reinvent themselves to start another grooming process, doing good to eventually do evil. Those who are convicted of violating the most vulnerable in society should have no expectation that the state will not drastically curtail their rights, so the opportunity for recidivism is in every possible way diminished. **The harm created to sex offenders rights to privacy with an open registry pales in comparison to the harm created to unsuspecting victims of child abuse.**”

“As little as 10 or 15 years ago, society had little knowledge of how manipulative sexual offenders are, and the prevalence of sexual exploitation of boys. Sadly, experts now tell us that 3 to 4% of the population, usually male, get sexual gratification from children. Organizations that deal with children have been targeted by pedophiles and have gone to great lengths to protect kids by requiring criminal record checks. Unfortunately, that is how it must be. But in everyday situations, without knowledge of people who could harm them, children are unarmed and sitting ducks. Knowledge is power and opening the registry will save many children from the trauma and degradation of sexual abuse. Simply put, **the rights of children must trump the rights of convicted sexual offenders.**”

“**Please do not let convicted sex offenders lurk amongst us anonymously.**”

# Beyond Borders Monitors the Courts

By Rosalind Prober

**Beyond Borders** monitors court cases both inside and outside Canada. It is the goal of Beyond Borders to intervene in as many cases as possible that raise issues of importance in the never ending fight to protect children from abusers and hold convicted abusers properly accountable. Here are a few examples:

**1. BRIAN DURHAM** was a convicted sexual abuser who got a pardon by accident. He then volunteered at the Boy Scouts and was found guilty of sexually abusing many boys. Twenty boys testified against him. Durham got "dangerous" offender status, which allows for a person to be incarcerated until he/she poses no risk to the public. Durham is appealing this sentence in the Court of Appeal of Ontario.

**2. OLF GUENTER** has two prior sex-related convictions and was on probation for a 2000 incident when he moved anonymously into a Winnipeg neighbourhood. He is now charged with 10 sex-related offences against children in the area of his home and possessing and displaying child pornography.

**3. JAMES HOWARD KNECHTEL**, an acquaintance of Brian Durham (above), was convicted of sexual abuse when he was a part of a pedophile ring that preyed on boys in the Boy Scouts. Most recently, knowing that he could legally become sexually involved with boys over 14 (the age of consent in Canada), Knechtel targeted two 15 year old boys. They testified that Knechtel called himself a "boy-lover." The prosecutor attempted to hold Knechtel accountable by charging him with sexual assault. The boys, however, who had received many gifts from the accused and a trip to Wonderland, could not endure the intense cross-examination on "consent" and Knechtel was found guilty only of child pornography possession. Knechtel now lives in the Kitchener area.

**4. D.J.M.** is a wealthy Canadian charged in the US for crimes committed in the UK involving the 9 year old son of a woman with whom he lived in London. D.J.M. had paid for the woman to be artificially inseminated in the US and then later flew her to Canada to have a second male baby. Immediately after the birth in Toronto, D.J.M. had

the mother relinquish any rights to the newborn. After returning to London for several months, D.J.M. left the mother and took the baby to the US. When cleaning up in London, the mother found a tape of her 9 year old son, being sexually abused by D.J.M with their new baby in the background. D.J.M was in Canada when the US police on a UK warrant found a similar child abuse tape in D.J.M's house. D.J.M was arrested in Canada and fought extradition to the US in the Ontario Courts. He lost. His extradition is now under appeal. While out on bail awaiting his extradition hearing, D.J.M was charged with sexual exploitation of a Toronto child. For more information on this case, go to Beyond Border's Spring 2002 newsletter at: [www.beyondborders.org](http://www.beyondborders.org).

**5. JOHN ROBIN SHARPE** was charged with historical child molestation when one of the 91 boys in his child pornography collection went to the police and identified himself in the photos. Sharpe tried to have the charges dropped at the preliminary stage but lost. His trial is set for 1 month in February, 2004. Sharpe has the right to revisit and challenge the search warrants that were declared legal in his first child pornography possession case where he was found guilty and sentenced to stay home at night for 4 months. Charter challenges are also expected.

**6. EDMONDSON, KINDRAT, BROWN** (See front page editorial)

**Beyond Borders** is monitoring many other cases across Canada. One of these includes a child prostitution case involving 17 pimps and many high level clients, all charged in Quebec City after 30 young girls were lured into prostitution. Another case involves two US priests who came to Montreal and were caught in a boys' prostitution ring, set up for tourists into Canada. Of particular concern to Beyond Borders are the many child pornography cases which, because the victims are anonymous, tend to linger in the justice system for years. As well Beyond Borders monitors cases of sex tourism including the two Canadians presently in jail in Cuba. **Tragically, the overwhelming majority of sexual crimes have been committed against children.**



**Beyond Borders** welcomes suggestions of relevant cases to monitor involving **sexual exploitation of children**. If you learn of problematic cases involving child pornography, Internet predators, sexual abusers, or sex tourism, please contact us at: [rprober@beyondborders.org](mailto:rprober@beyondborders.org).

## ***It's All About the Kids*** **Toronto Police International Conference on Child Exploitation**

By Nancy Embry

During the week of September 22 – 26<sup>th</sup> Roz, Marlyn and I attended this conference whose audience of 300 was primarily drawn from the Sex Crimes Unit of the Toronto Police. The conference, sponsored by **Microsoft Canada** had its origins on a “really rotten day” late last January when Paul Gillespie of the Sex Crimes Unit e-mailed Bill Gates in frustration over the lack of technology available to the police investigating child pornography over the Internet. “To be real honest, I didn’t expect anything back. I didn’t even save the e-mail” Gillespie admitted. Not only did Gates forward the e-mail to Microsoft Canada, they set about developing new software that would document image data in an effort to help police in identifying child victims, (The Child Exploitation Linkage Tracking System). From there grew the idea of a conference to bring together child exploitation experts from many different fields.

This conference included many international experts. **Terry Jones**, formerly of the Manchester Police, spoke on victim identification. **Dr. Sharon Cooper** of the University of North Carolina explained the role of the pediatrician in helping to identify child victims. **Hamish McCulloch** of INTERPOL explained their role, and incidentally congratulated ECPAT and Beyond Borders for their work. The political and legal ramifications were represented by a provocative panel that included **Chief Julian Fantino, Madam Justice L'Heureux Dubé and M.P. Dan McTeague**. The conference concluded with a message to never give up or stop working on behalf of all children, delivered by **Mr. Ed Smart**, father of abducted child, Elizabeth.

The overwhelming conclusion that one could draw from this conference was that the pedophile at this moment is winning. In 1993 the number of images seized in a typical raid would be in the hundreds; today in the hundreds of thousands. The images are not only more prolific but also

depict younger and younger children in more violent situations. The child pornographer has found a sense of normalcy in his behavior through newsgroups of like-minded individuals who trade or sell exploitive images. They are fully aware that by crossing international borders they can avoid prosecution, or by using encrypting software avoid identification. Unfortunately, our legal system is always “looking backwards” with its reliance on precedence in an era when technology is rapidly moving forward, so that when they are caught the punishment does not seem to fit the crime. Given that statistics show that 44% of child pornographers go on to abuse children and that in 99.9% of child sexual abuse cases pornography is found in the perpetrators possession, clearly law enforcement needs every tool that can be made available. This includes networking internationally to track the “bad guys”, as well as bringing the Internet and credit card providers on board to help. In Canada there is also a clear need for a higher age of consent, as well as a National Sex Offender Registry and fewer conditional sentences. Judges have to understand that although there are no physical victims in a child pornography case, it is not a victimless crime.

Although the challenges for both the police and the legal system that were raised through this conference seemed overwhelming, even as it was happening Microsoft came out with the news that it would close all chat rooms in Europe and start charging a minimal fee for use in North America. A step in the right direction in that the tracing of child abusers will be made easier through the credit card information.

As the panel on Thursday pointed out, what remains is the education of the public as to the jeopardy our children remain in, until we make significant changes to help those who are trying to protect them.

### ***About Nancy Embry***

*For many years, Nancy Embry has worked diligently on behalf of the National Ballet School in Toronto, helping to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars to aid economically disadvantaged but gifted students. At the same time, Nancy has become a valuable friend of Beyond Borders. She monitors Ontario cases, and hosts Beyond Borders board members in her home. She flew to B.C. for R. v. John Robin Sharpe, and came to Winnipeg to help with fundraising. In September Nancy spent a week with the Toronto Sex Crimes Unit grappling with all the problematic issues around child sexual exploitation. Work is now in progress spear-headed by Nancy to set up a chapter of Beyond Borders in Ontario. Success is inevitable. Thank you very much, Nancy.*

## What's New

**Beyond Borders** has a brand new website at [www.beyondborders.org](http://www.beyondborders.org).

**Kimberly Cork** and **Nicole Harris** have joined the board of Beyond Borders. Nicole is the former news anchor of Global Television, Winnipeg and is chairing the Media Awards Committee. Kimberly has a degree in Conflict Resolution Studies and Politics and works at Great West Life in their Litigation Department.

**Eric Warwaruk**, news features editor of the University of Manitoba newsletter, *The Manitoban*, wrote an excellent article on child sex tourism in the July 23, 2003 issue. Learn what happened to some Canadians who took a cheap tour to Thailand from Australia and found themselves in a hotel catering to sex tourists. That article is available at:

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/manitoban/global/archives.html>

**Mark Hecht** and **Rosalind Prober** appeared on June 12, 2003 before the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights in Ottawa on *Bill C 23, The Sex Offender Information Registration Act*. The complete text of Beyond Borders' presentation is available at [www.beyondborders.org](http://www.beyondborders.org) under Publications.

**Rosalind Prober** and **Muriel Smith** received the first *Making A Difference for Women Recognition Awards* from the Soroptimists International of Winnipeg. Beyond Borders thanks President Kay Stewart and the Soroptimists for their recognition and generous donation to Beyond Borders. Also congratulations to Muriel for her many years of activism on behalf of women everywhere.

**David Matas** and **Norman Boudreau**, appeared on October 7, 2003 before the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights on Bill C 20. Bill C 20 has several provisions which Beyond Borders supports, dealing with the protection of witnesses and the creation of a new offence of voyeurism. However two provisions which

Beyond Borders opposes are the elimination of the defences to child pornography presently in the Criminal Code and the creation of a new defence of "public good". David Matas's presentation to the committee is available at [www.beyondborders.org](http://www.beyondborders.org) under Publications. Bill C 20 does not raise the age of consent to 16 but creates a new category of sexual exploitation which would leave it up to the courts to determine if sexual activity with a young person is "exploitive" or not. Norman Boudreau's presentation on the deficiencies of this amendment including its vagueness, lack of preventative measures and the reliance on judicial discretion is available on Beyond Borders website under Publications.

**Justice Minister Martin Cauchon** at an appearance on September 25, 2003 before the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights on Bill C 20, on the issue of the age of consent said, "**Mr. Chairman, it is true that the best way to protect young persons against sexual exploitation is to raise the general age of consent to sexual activity from 14 to 16 years.**" Mr. Cauchon then said the "better" way is to let the courts decide on a case by case basis what is exploitive and what is not. Beyond Borders disagrees. In England, Scotland, Ireland, the U.S., New Zealand, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Australia, and in most developed countries excluding Japan, adults can not legally prey on children over 14. Beyond Borders does not understand why Ottawa is so reluctant to protect children.

[www.crin.org](http://www.crin.org) is the website of **The Child Rights Information Network (CRIN)**. Three times a year CRIN publishes a newsletter which is online. In the latest newsletter, No. 17, May 2003, **Mark Hecht** writes *Taking on the Logos*, a fresh approach in the brave new world of the private sector. To receive CRINMAIL, a twice weekly news bulletin on child rights issues, email: [info@crin.org](mailto:info@crin.org)

[www.talkingworks.com](http://www.talkingworks.com)- A Canadian male sexual abuse survivor, Doug Dane, speaks out to help others.

**Do you wish to help stop child sexual exploitation?**

*Please make your donation payable to:*

**Beyond Borders Inc.**

**387 Broadway Avenue**

**Winnipeg, MB Canada R3C 0V5**

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