

## **ECPAT CANADA**

CANADA'S GLOBAL VOICE AGAINST CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



ECPAT International - Recipient of the 2013 Hilton Humanitarian Prize.

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# 2013 PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD SUBMITTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2014, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada is a voice for children who have been sexually exploited and also takes action to prevent this horrific violation of a child's basic right to be safe from harm. We are the Canadian arm of ECPAT International, which is based in Bangkok and comprises a network of similar organizations across 75 countries.

We carry out our mandate, in both official languages, through a dedicated team that includes numerous volunteers across the country. Our advocacy programs include Supreme Court of Canada and other legal challenges, judicial reform initiatives, case monitoring, youth mentoring, educational presentations and projects, an annual media awards and symposium as well as awareness programs such as our Man-to-Man/Homme à Homme campaign. We also work extensively on corporate social responsibility initiatives and are the Canadian representative of *The Code for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism.* 

This past year has been one of organizational growth, development and change. I continue to be honoured to be part of a team that has positively impacted the lives of countless survivors across the country.

Respectfully submitted, March 26, 2014 by,

alind Prober

Rosalind Prober, C.M.

President

Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada



**Rosalind Prober** 

## Following are the highlights from the past year:

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#### **LEGAL REFORM & INTERVENTION**

#### **Victim Bill of Rights**

Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada was part of the team of NGOS invited to meetings across Canada with Justice Minister Peter MacKay and Minister of Public Safety Vic Toews to advise on the content of the new Victims Bill of Rights.

## Cyberbullying

Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada lobbied for comprehensive legislation to protect children from cyberbullying. The Protecting Canadians from Online Crime Act (Bill C-13) was introduced on November 20, 2013.



Rosalind Prober and Justice Minister Peter MacKay

## **Child Exposure to Pornography**

In November, Beyond Borders co-founder and legal team member Mark Hecht took part in a public roundtable discussion in Ottawa on the subject of pornography and youth. The event was organized by Member of Parliament Joy Smith and included a keynote by Dr. Gail Dines who spoke of her research exploring the impact of hardcore adult pornography on child development. Mark Hecht's comments covered the use of adult pornography as a tool to "groom" children for sexual exploitation, the proliferation of "barely legal" models and, most important, its overall message that advances the commodification of youth sexuality.

#### **Child Sex Tourism**

We continue to advance measures to protect children from child sex tourism. In September, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the creation of a publicly accessible national sex offender registry and a law forcing convicted sex offenders to alert Canadian authorities before they travel internationally.

#### CASE MONITORING/MEDIA AND PRO BONO LEGAL INTERVENTION

We are very fortunate to have the commitment of a number of lawyers who contribute many hours of their time to Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada pro bono. Thank you to everyone on our legal action team.

#### **Ernest Fenwick MacIntosh**

In November, Justice Minister Peter MacKay publically apologized to the victims of child sex offender Ernest Fenwick MacIntosh for shortcomings on the part of the federal authorities that resulted in the staying of charges due to the excessive delay of court proceedings. He also ordered changes to passport processes, border controls and the extradition system to address the institutional failures that resulted in this ultimate denial of justice. It was a horrible case of bureaucratic bungling and MacIntosh will never be held accountable for the sexual abuse of his young victims in the 1970s.

The apology and systemic changes were the result of years of advocacy by MacIntosh's victims, supported by hours of pro bono work by legal team member, Jonathan Rosenthal. Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada monitored this case from the time the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal stayed the charges against MacIntosh in 2011 and this past year, Jonathan Rosenthal and Rosalind Prober accompanied the victims to the Supreme Court of Canada, where sadly, the lower court's decision was upheld.

#### **ACCOLADES AND RECOGNITION**

#### Mayor of Winnipeg's State of the City Charity of Choice

In March 2013, Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada was chosen as one of two charities to benefit from proceeds of the State of the City Address luncheon hosted by The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce. Winnipeg businessman and philanthropist, Albert El Tassi also made a donation to the recipients of this honour.



Rosalind Prober receives cheque from Mayor Sam Katz.

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## **CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

#### Air Canada

We were thrilled to deepen our relationship with Canada's largest airline this year through its charitable arm, the Air Canada Foundation.

In addition to supporting Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada's work through flight donations, Air Canada Foundation is also the title sponsor for our annual Media Awards & Educational Symposium.

The airline has also demonstrated its commitment to combating child sex tourism and exploitation by supporting the creation of public awareness videos for its in-flight entertainment system. The videos educate the flying public about the great harm experienced by children though sex tourism, sex trafficking and sexual abuse images (child pornography), and encourages reporting of these horrific crimes. In a longer video appearing on ACTV, passengers can learn about the work of Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada and how they can play a part in ending child sexual exploitation through our organization.

#### Transat A.T.

Transat has continued to maintain its use of the training materials developed by Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada to train new employees on the subject of child sex tourism. Recently, Transat has featured our organization on its new corporate responsibility website (resp.transat.com/en/reports.html). Transat is a key sponsor of the Media Awards.

#### WestJet

WestJet has continued its support of Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada activities with gifts of flight for organization business. It is also a key sponsor of the Media Awards and we have acted as a resource to the airline on issues related to child protection.

#### The Code

The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism is an industry-driven, multi-stakeholder initiative that provides awareness, tools and support to the tourism industry. Members must adhere to a number of criteria related to policies, training and awareness initiatives that advance child protection efforts.

Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada is The Code's Canadian representative and board member Darlene Newton oversees our responsibilities in this regard. This includes recruiting new Code members and supporting the criteria for that membership.

#### **Other CSR Activities**

Working with a legal intern from Canada Lawyers Abroad, Mark Hecht continued to build on the organization's expertise in the field of corporate social responsibility and the rights of the child. Kara Moen continued her involvement with us beyond her internship as a volunteer and now manages our corporate social responsibility Twitter feed @beyond\_CSR.

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#### YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

#### **Micro Project**

As a member of the ECPAT International Child and Youth Advisory Committee, Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada youth board member Arly Akerstream oversaw a micro project to engage other youth in the issue of child sexual exploitation. Through grant support from the advisory committee, Arly mobilized more than 50 university and high school students to attend the Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada Educational Symposium on how to protect youth in the digital age. To acquire the complementary tickets, students agreed to use social media to spread what they learned at the event to their peers.

#### Youth volunteer heads to Bangkok

Iln March, one of our fantastic volunteers, Karyn Stone, was selected to do a communications internship with ECPAT International in Bangkok, Thailand. She obviously impressed them as by October she had secured a one-year fulltime contract. We are very proud to have played a small role in Karyn's success through her volunteer role with us.

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Richard Guerry speaks about digital safety



Litsa Sourtzis and Victor Malarek win Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada Media Award



Carol Todd, Rosalind Prober, and Glen Canning

#### MEDIA AWARDS & EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Reflecting the number of recent tragic cases about online child sexual victimization, our educational symposium this year featured a morning panel discussion entitled, "Child Sexual Exploitation in the Digital Age." Panelists included a digital media expert, privacy and child rights lawyers as well as the parents of Amanda Todd and Rehtaeh Parsons, who both died by suicide following relentless online bullying and harassment in their communities.

The Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada Media Awards luncheon, honouring journalists from across the country, saw a record number of sponsors supporting the event enabling its continued growth. This year, the Rosalind Prober Award for Advocacy was presented to Carol Todd (mother of Amanda Todd), and Glen Canning and Leah Parsons (Parents of Rehtaeh Parsons). The award recognizes and encourages the invaluable contribution made by individuals who are able to move beyond the pain of their own victimization to become child protection advocates. Carol, Glen and Leah's work has helped significantly to raise awareness and strengthen laws and victim services in our country.

#### BY THE NUMBERS

31 Number of nominated journalists

Number of Media Awards ceremony attendees

Number attending the symposium

Number of media outlets that covered the event, including Global National and CTV National news

Number of volunteers who planned and assisted at the event

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#### **COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

#### Suds, Spud and Steak Event

We chased the January blues away in Winnipeg with our first suds, spud and steak fundraising event at the Palomino Club. We had a fantastic turnout of more than 200 people and raised more than \$6,500 towards our advocacy activities.

#### **World Belly Dance Day**

It was an unseasonably chilly day in Winnipeg on May 11, but that did not stop the ladies of Au Set Belly Dance Emporium from celebrating World Belly Dance Day outside at The Forks. Au Set held a silent auction as part of the festivities to support Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada. Several Beyond Borders board members and volunteers were on hand to support the event.



**Belly Dancers** 

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#### CANADIAN MUSEUM OF HUMAN RIGHTS

We are very excited for the opening of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) and deeply honoured that the story of the founding of Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada will be highlighted in the museum's oral history exhibit, which is dedicated to the mobilization of people to achieve legal reform. This permanent exhibit at the museum and online will allow visitors to hear firsthand from Beyond Borders co-founders, Rosalind Prober and Mark Hecht, how the Canadian organization and ECPAT International began and what we have achieved together.

In addition to the oral history contribution, Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada will be part of an exhibit on the issue of child sexual exploitation. Featured, will be the contribution Beyond Borders has made to legislative reform in the areas of the age of consent as well as making child sex tourism (1997) and trafficking (2012) an extraterritorial offence.

The CMHR is projected to open in Winnipeg in 2014.

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#### **ECPAT INTERNATIONAL**

Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada board member David Matas continues to serve on the board of ECPAT International representing North America.

#### **Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize**

In August 2013, ECPAT International was selected to receive the Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize of \$1.5 million, the world's largest prize of its kind.

As the ECPAT organization representing Canada, we were thrilled about the prize as it underscores the incredible impact of organizations from across the world coming together under the ECPAT umbrella to act globally against a growing worldwide scourge.

Being part of ECPAT International has been of great advantage to our organization. It's allowed us to benefit from the experience of an international team and has given Canada a greater voice globally on this critical child protection issue. It's been a key ingredient to our success in Canada with legal challenges and reform as well as our ability to raise public awareness on the issue.

#### **OUR TEAM**

Thank you to our exceptional team for all the work it does on behalf of victims of child sexual exploitation. A special thanks to our volunteer team members who contribute hundreds of hours of time to our organization.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS (VOLUNTEERS)

Rosalind Prober President
Nicole Merrick Vice-President
Jeanette McCoshen Treasurer

Arly Akerstream

Darlene Bergen

Jyoti Brar

Mariella Disanto

Lynda Gilchuk

Christine Krahn

David Matas

Darlene Newton

Karyn Stone (until March)

Hermie van den Berg

Nancy Vardalos-Ginakes

Bev Wiebe

# LEGAL ACTION (VOLUNTEERS)

Mark Eric Hecht

David Matas

Nicole Merrick

Justin Roberge

Jonathan Rosenthal

# MEDIA AWARDS COMMITTEE (VOLUNTEERS)

Bev Wiebe - Chair

Arly Ackerstream

Darlene Bergen

Jyoti Brar

Jennifer Clark

Mariella Disanto

Kevin Fong

Claude Forest

Tasha Kettles

Christine Krahn

Nicole Merrick

Darlene Newton

Louise Pelland

Max Poulin

Rosalind Prober

Nancy Vardalos-Ginakes

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS, TRANSLATION SERVICES, AU-DELÀ DES FRONTIÈRES ECPAT CANAD (QUEBEC CHAPTER) (VOLUNTEER)

Louise Pelland

# COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT (VOLUNTEERS)

Jennifer Clark

Cindy Lange

Geneviève Proulx

Sandra MacInnis

Kara Moen

#### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Earl Glinter

(Volunteer - Accounting)

Ray Oakes

(Volunteer - Legal Services)

Marnie Strath

(Event Planning)

Rising Sun Productions

(Media Awards Ceremony)

Deborah Zanke

(Public Relations/Communications)

CONGRATULATIONS AGAIN THIS YEAR TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR DEVOTION TO SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN EVERYWHERE.

