

## SEXUAL EXPLOITATION and TECHNOLOGY

New technologies include the Internet, mobile phones, digital cameras, Web cameras and online games. They are expanding faster than the evolution of governmental regulatory schemes.

New technologies make communicating with children for sexual purposes both easier to do and harder to track. Such methods include chat rooms, instant messaging, and social networking sites. They largely take place in “cyberspace”.

The protection of children in cyberspace is difficult but vitally important. Challenges include identifying potential harms, understanding the perspective of young people, and enacting practical measures to assure children their right to protection.

### Risks in Communicating via Technology

- A perception that there is a “safe distance” between the communicators
- Increased speed in forming relationships due to a sense of anonymity
- Increased exposure of abusive images due to the large scope of cyberspace
- The permanence of communication

### Canadian Coalition against Internet Child Exploitation (CCAICE)

CCAICE was formed in 2004 when Cybertip.ca met with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Department of Justice, and Internet Service Providers. CCAICE combines both private and public sector responses. Private Sector members include Bell, Telus, Rogers and the Canadian Association of Internet Providers. Public Sector members include the RCMP and the Department of Justice. The organization works to protect children from online sexual exploitation and bring those who victimize children to justice.

CCAICE established a National Action Plan that prioritizes consumer education, cooperation between industry and law enforcement, and technical management. CCAICE works with its law enforcement members to develop resources to increase the effectiveness of investigating and prosecuting online child exploitation cases.

### Bill C-22: Mandatory Reporting Obligations

Bill C-22 was introduced in 2010 to combat child pornography on the Internet by requiring Internet Service Providers and others providing Internet services to report any incident of child pornography. Following its enactment in 2011, there is now a duty for ISPs to report Internet addresses, emails or websites containing child pornography. There is an additional duty to notify a police officer if an ISP reasonably believes that child pornography is being transmitted through its services.

### Sources

- Bill C-22: *An Act Respecting the Mandatory Reporting of Internet Child Pornography by Persons who Provide an Internet Service*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sess, 40<sup>th</sup> Parl, 2011, (assented to 23 March 2011).
- *Child Safety Online: Global Challenges and Strategies* (Florence: UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, 2011).
- Deborah Muir, *Violence Against Children in Cyberspace: A Contribution to the United Nations Study on Violence Against Children* (Bangkok: ECPAT International, 2005).