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 regulatory schemes.

New technologies include means that can make communicating with children for sexual purposes both easier and deeper underground. 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 to doing so can 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 relationship due to a sense of anonymity
- The large scope of cyberspace (increased exposure of abusive images)
- The permanence of communication

Canadian Coalition against Internet Child Exploitation (CCAICE)

CCAICE was formed in 2004 when Cybertip.ca met with the RCMP, 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

Recent legislation such as Bill C-22 shows how the government is trying to respond to a new technological world where increased anonymity can result in reduced inhibitions and cultural stigmas.

Sources

- *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).