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Au Delà Des Frontières Inc.



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Beyond Borders Newsletter

Ensuring Global Justice for Children

Issue No. 9

Fall 2006

Winnipeg Toronto Vancouver Ottawa

Happy Birthday Joyeux Anniversaire Feliz Cumpleaños

**Beyond Borders celebrates
10 years of growth and success**

We could not have done it without YOU!

Guarding Our Children

Canada Can Do More to Protect Kids from Sexual Abuse

By David Matas

Canada is not doing enough to protect children from sexual abuse. That much seems clear from the Peter Whitmore saga. Peter Whitmore, a chronic convicted sex offender is accused of kidnapping two boys, a 14 year old from Winnipeg and a ten year old from Whitewood, Saskatchewan. The police negotiated his surrender in Kipling, Saskatchewan.

There are at least four ways protection could be improved. **One is raising the age of consent for sex with adults.** Right now it is fourteen. It is chilling to realize, but Peter Whitmore can not be charged with sexual abuse of the 14 year old from Winnipeg unless it can be established either that Whitmore sexually exploited the child or that the child did not consent to sex. **The Government of Canada has introduced legislation into Parliament to raise the age of consent from 14 to 16 with a close in age exemption for a partner who is less than five years older.** That legislation needs to be enacted as soon as possible.

Second, the threshold for dangerous offender designation needs to be lowered. Dangerous offender designation means that an offender can be sentenced to life in prison not for what he has done, but for the danger he poses, what he will do.

Peter Whitmore was never designated a dangerous offender because, though he had been convicted many times for sexual abuse of children and was an obvious danger,



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Bangkok, Thailand www.ecpat.net

he had never met the threshold for that designation. *The designation can be imposed only if a person has committed a serious personal injury offence.* None of the offences for which Peter Whitmore was convicted fit that description. When it comes to chronic sex offenders, the potential future danger combined with convictions of any sort relevant to the danger should be enough.

Third, dangerous child sex offenders should not be given passports. Whitmore had violated a supervision order in 2000, going to Mexico, where, according to media reports, he "cultivated relationships" with children. He was found with a notepad containing the names and ages of 13 children. *The Canadian Passport Order authorizes the Government of Canada to refuse a passport for only one offence, the fraudulent use of a certificate of citizenship.* The list needs to be expanded to include repeated sexual offences against children. That same order allows revocation of a passport if the passport is used in committing a serious offence abroad. But a passport can not be revoked simply because a person has committed child sexual abuse offences in Canada and is likely to do so abroad. Yet, that should be possible.

Fourth, Canada needs a public accessible sex offender registry. The BC police allowed Whitmore to visit Alberta for four days and even issued a press release he was going there. Whitmore stayed in Alberta beyond the authorized time. His court ordered supervision expired, in mid June, while he was still there. A court date was set for the end of June to extend the supervision order. But Whitmore did not show up. If the public in Alberta had known, through a publicly accessible sex offender registry, who Whitmore was, the public could have been after the police to get a court ruling to extend the supervision order before it expired. The police oversight would have been a good deal less likely to have happened.

Right now, there is a national sex offender registry

maintained by the RCMP. But the information on the registry is available to police only and not to the public. Moreover, even for police, the registry is available only to investigate unsolved crimes of a sexual nature. The police in Alberta knew about Whitmore. But it was no thanks to the sex offender registry, which even they could not access, because at the time Whitmore was not a suspect in an unsolved sexual crime.

A sex offender registry can be too accessible, as the case of Stephen Marshall showed. Marshall, a Canadian from Cape Breton, looked up on the Internet the names and address of two sex offenders, Joseph Gray and William Elliott, on the Maine sex offender registry, went down to Maine and shot and killed them. When confronted by police on a bus in Boston in April this year, he shot and killed himself.

There are legitimate issues, once public sex offender registries are established, about who should be on the registry, how access is obtained, and how much information should be available to the public about the offender. Only those who are truly a danger to the public should be on a publicly accessible registry, not every person who has committed a sexual offence. Public access should require some form of police screening for those who seek information about offenders, to prevent vigilantism. Information about the offender on the registry should be specific enough to prevent cases of mistaken identity.

It is easy to think of what, for a sex offender registry, might be too much. But what we have now nationally, a registry accessible only to police and only even for them for the purpose of investigating unsolved sex crimes, is far too little.

The Whitmore incident has made it as plain as day that Canada is not doing enough to protect children. We should learn from the drama to improve our protection.

Online Predators, Web Cams and Blackmail

Two men, one in the UK and one in Canada, were recently charged with exploiting girls via the Internet and then with blackmailing the children to get them to continue to expose themselves via web cams. In August, 2006 Adrian Ringland of the UK pleaded guilty to indecency with a child, blackmail, and making indecent photos. A Canadian girl complained to the RCMP. They contacted the UK police who found a Trojan Horse computer virus attached to her computer. *Ringland had controlled her computer and scared the victim into giving him nude pictures of herself.*

In July, 2006 Mark Bedford of Canada was charged with child luring, extortion, and making and distributing child pornography. Bedford is believed to have more than 100 victims in Canada and the UK. *He hacked into the victim's e-mail accounts, gained access to their private buddy lists, posed as their teenage friend and once he had some nude pictures, if they refused to cooperate he threatened the girls with rape, sexual violence or embarrassment.*

You Be the Judge

By Dorothy Muller

The headlines scream “Pedophile arrested for child molestation” and the same question is asked. *Is pedophilia a disease to be treated or a crime to be punished?* Yet still our current legal and medical systems have no clear vision on the issue.

If we believe that sex with children is a freely made moral choice, it would seem logical to deal with the problem through the criminal justice system. But if, as some have suggested, pedophilia is an uncontrollable impulse contained in our DNA, a disease which should be treated, then punishing pedophiles would be morally wrong. Other researchers argue that pedophilia is still a moral failure regardless of its biological roots, the crime being not the psychological impulse, but the willingness to give in to it. After all pedophilia means sexual desire directed towards children; it does not mean having sex with them. But this conclusion assumes an answer that science is still uncertain about; whether for some pedophiles the impulse to molest has become pathology, i.e. the symptoms of a disease.

Supposing we accept the likelihood that the reality is complicated, and that both chemistry and morality are at work in the creation of a sexual predator, would it not be a mistake to call this a disease? Do we want to give up on the concept of free will altogether? We live in a culture which increasingly blames a medical problem for bad behaviour, finding a neurological component to everything from alcoholism to domestic abuse. Do we absolve everyone of everything? What science has revealed about the moral/medical roots of pedophiles is, of course, ambiguous and the choices outlined above an oversimplification. Researchers have been unable to isolate a biological cause for pedophilia, or even to agree

on a personality profile, not to mention the confusion in defining what this disease really involves.

So what do we do? It is generally agreed that there are four basic rationales for punishment: revenge, rehabilitation, deterrence and incapacitation. Our society holds people responsible for their actions, because if we did not there would be chaos. Alcoholics are held morally responsible by insurance and employment consequences. Thieves face jail time or, at the very least, public humiliation. If we believe that pedophilia is part disease and part crime, then almost none of these rationales are served. Rehabilitation alone has not been very effective, deterrence is unlikely and revenge cannot be used if the disease component comes into play, which leaves only incapacitation as the reason for punishing pedophiles. *The reality is our prisons are overcrowded with sex offenders and, due to the high rates of recidivism, we must choose between lifetime involuntary confinement with treatment, or the cost of ongoing monitoring. Is there a cure? We do not know.*

One thing we do know is that pedophilia, has one real and tangible victim for every incident and, if the statistics from the National Institute for Mental Health are right, and the average molester will have 150 victims before apprehension, the social costs of a single incident are astronomical. The fate of these victims has taken a back seat to the debate over how to deal with the perpetrators. *These children need our protection and they need it now.*

What should be done? You be the judge!

[Dorothy Muller is a volunteer board member of Beyond Borders and manages the database]

News in Brief

Beyond Borders is excited to announce upcoming plans for a new ***Student Education Website***. The goal is to connect students and youth with ***Beyond Borders/ECPAT*** and provide the tools to become involved in the ECPAT movement in Canada. Watch for further information on the Beyond Borders website at www.beyondborders.org.

The ***Beyond Borders 2006 National Media Award*** winner will be announced on November 19, 2006, to coincide with the ***World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse***. The winner's name will be posted on our website.

UK Banks are cancelling credit cards of online child pornographers. Banks including savings and loan associations in the UK have been given new powers which will allow them to withdraw the cards from their customers if the cards have been used to access abuse images on the Internet.

Wired to the World: Canadians rank 8th worldwide as users of the Internet, according to a report by comScore Networks. More than half of Canada's residents 15 years or older are regular Internet users and spend an average of about an hour online each day, states the report.

A Presentation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Bill C-9 - An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Conditional Sentence of Imprisonment)

By Rosalind Prober

I am here today to speak on behalf of children who are sexually victimized by adults. Holding perpetrators accountable is certainly not easy for children. Many abused children do not live in Canada. Many are victims of Canadian child sex tourists. Many are totally incapable of withstanding punishing cross examination on the intimate details of their sexual victimization in our “win at all costs” adversarial system. Many are found to be not credible. As we all know sex crimes can be life altering and have a heavy impact especially on the most vulnerable in society who are the easiest to abuse in many cases. The disconnection between victimization statistics and criminal justice statistics shows all too clearly that most sex crimes are not reported.

On behalf of these children and children who do manage to successfully prosecute abusers, Beyond Borders supports Bill C-9. We support the removal of conditional sentencing for sexual assaults or other sexual offences against anyone under 18 when the state has prosecuted by indictment for a crime which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years or more. Tough laws on paper are nothing more than lip service when they are constantly ignored. This is an egregious violation of children’s rights to justice.

Should Canadians be reluctant or hesitant to use the justice system to denounce sex crimes against children?

In Beyond Borders view the answer is a clear “No”. Society has a right and a duty to children as documented in all the international conventions and protocols we sign to condemn conduct that it finds intolerable. Surely sexual activity with children is such conduct. Surely the message from the justice system to the public should be that these crimes are abhorrent and very serious.

Has the Judicial Branch failed in its duty to protect the most vulnerable in society by giving “slap on the wrist” sentences for serious sex crimes against children?

Yes, it has. Conditional sentencing has been abused and overused. The fundamental principle that a sentence must be proportionate to the gravity of the offence has gone out the window. Aside from leaving the age of consent at 14, Beyond Borders supported Bill C-2 which was brought in by the previous government. That bill imposed on the judiciary mandatory minimums for those convicted of sex crimes specifically against children. Bill C-9 will ensure that those who sexually assault children, commit incest etc. will also not escape incarceration.

It should be pointed out, however, that unlike Bill C-2 which imposed specific minimum sentences, this bill still leaves the door open to judges to impose suspended sentences and probation for sex crimes against children.

Is “jail in the community” or “house arrest” equivalent to incarceration in prison?

Clearly not. Crime victims have the right, especially children, to be treated respectfully in the court and told the truth about sentencing perpetrators. A person’s home should never be equated to jail. That is preposterous. Sex offenders against children who get “house arrest” are going home to their own bed. Because there are so many sex offenders against children from the upper income bracket, many return to luxury. It is not credible to refer to homes as jails. It is disrespectful of everyone to pretend that going home after being sentenced is the equivalent of real jail. House arrest is an undeserved soft touch. If it weren’t, it would not be so sought after by criminals.

In 2001, a young 12-year-old First Nations child in Saskatchewan had the enormous misfortune of being spotted by three adult men. When any 12-year-old child ends up hysterical, dead drunk and has to be hospitalized due to clear evidence that she was sexually assaulted one would think that a sentence of house arrest for a perpetrator of this crime would be impossible. However, not only did Dean Edmondson get house arrest, he also became the victim in this case as the 12-year-old was portrayed not just as a consenting willing participant but as a sexual aggressor as well. As precedents go, this is one Canadians should not look to with pride.

Sex crimes against children are often premeditated, some involving elaborate planning and manipulation not just of the kids but of their parents as well. Sex crimes can leave long term scars and as we all well know can lead to destructive life choices and suicide. There are strong societal sanctions against sex with children. Millions of tax dollars are sadly going into teaching kids how to protect themselves. So when an adult chooses to cross that barrier into behaviour that harms society’s most vulnerable and cherished members, he or she should have no possibility of what is in reality just an inconvenient curfew. ***House arrest should not be an option in sentencing child sexual exploiters. Bill C-9 closes that option, is in the best interest of children and should be supported by this Committee.***

Can Civil Action Stop Child Sex Tourism and Bring Justice to Victims?

A U.S. Alternative Holds Sex Tourists Accountable

By David Replogle

Under the U.S. legal system, there are 2 distinct systems for achieving justice for victims of crimes, including victims of child sex tourism. ***Under U.S. law, it is a crime for an American to sexually abuse any child under the age of 18 in a foreign country*** [18 U.S.C. §2423]. In recent years, the U.S. government has successfully prosecuted several high profile sex tourists in U.S. courts. Unfortunately, the criminal authorities lack the resources to pursue the vast majority of the U.S. pedophiles who travel to foreign countries and abuse local children. As a result, there are no legal consequences for most sex tourists under the criminal justice system, and no justice for the victim.

Fortunately, under the U.S. law, there is an alternative to depending on the criminal justice system. The U.S. law which makes it a crime in the U.S. for an American to travel to a foreign country and sexually abuse a child under the age of 18 also grants the victim the right to file a civil action against the perpetrator in the United States District Court [18 U.S.C. § 2255]. In July of 2006, Congress amended the law and raised the minimum amount of damages to be awarded to a victim to \$150,000. A foreign child who has been sexually abused by an American tourist can now file a direct action in the United States for damages and those damages are set at a minimum of \$150,000 plus attorneys' fees and court costs.

Filing a direct civil action in the United States to hold the American sex tourist accountable for his actions has several benefits:

United States Jurisdiction: The claim is filed directly in the federal court in the perpetrator's hometown by a private American lawyer. There is no requirement that the victim travel to the United States to file the claim, although, if there is a trial, the victim might be required to attend. Costs of travel are generally advanced by the lawyer who has filed the claim on behalf of the victim and then paid by the perpetrator as part of the judgment.

Control of the Case: Victims have greater control in a civil suit than in a criminal case because the victim is a party to the civil action. In a criminal case, the state is the

party and controls the case. Often, it is even difficult for the victim or the local NGO to convince the authorities to pursue a criminal complaint. If a complaint is filed, the criminal prosecutor then generally excludes the victim from all decisions made in the case. In contrast, in a civil action, the victim (and not the government) controls the case. The victim (and not the government) makes the decision to file the complaint. After the civil complaint is filed, the victim (and not the government) controls the investigation of the case, cannot be excluded from the courtroom and must approve all settlement proposals.

Trial by Jury: Under the U.S. legal system, the victim is entitled to have the case heard by a jury consisting of everyday citizens and not judges. The judge presides over the trial, but it is the jury of citizens that determines the amount of damages that must be paid by the perpetrator.

No Need for Prosecution or Conviction: There is no requirement that the sex tourist be prosecuted for his acts in order to file a civil claim. The civil action is totally independent from the criminal process. Even if there was no criminal conviction, the victim can still seek compensation through a civil action.

Greater Compensation: The U.S. law provides that a victim of sex tourism shall receive at least \$150,000 in compensation plus attorneys' fees and costs. That amount is a minimum that a court would award after trial. If the victim can demonstrate greater damage, then the court will award an amount sufficient to compensate the victim.

Civil actions filed in the United States hold the American sex tourist directly accountable to his victims. In the fight against child sex tourism, the direct civil action in the United States provides a valuable additional tool to hold the perpetrator accountable and to obtain justice for the victim.

[David Replogle is an attorney in San Francisco, California. In 2005 he obtained a substantial settlement of a civil claim brought on behalf of 20 victims of child sex tourism from Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. He can be reached at: davidreplogleSFO@aol.com]

For more information on child sex tourism in the U.S.A. go to www.ecpatusa.org

Beyond Borders Congratulates **P.E.A.C.E.** on New CSEC Publication

An ever increasing number of young children are being exposed to commercial sexual exploitation through pornography and prostitution in Sri Lanka, with the number exceeding 30,000 in recent years, according to a new publication from the P.E.A.C.E. (Protecting Environment and Children Everywhere) Foundation entitled *CSEC: the Crime against Children*, edited by Maureen Seneviratne.

“Both boys and girls as young as three years old are being sold to purported ‘child lovers’, commonly known as pedophiles, on a daily basis”, said Maureen Seneviratne. The publication comprises articles covering all aspects of child abuse, highlighting the problems of

CSEC in Asian culture and documenting the activities of the P.E.A.C.E. organization.

“The work of P.E.A.C.E. has never been popular in Sri Lanka”, said Mrs. Seneviratne. “Many feel that the exposure of these heinous crimes tarnishes the Western image of Sri Lanka as a paradise island. *What they do not realize is that the common perception of Sri Lanka is in fact as a paradise for pedophiles*”.

[Excerpt from book review by Jennifer Sheen (*Mirror Life*, Feb. 2006). For more information contact Maureen Seneviratne at peacesl@sri.lanka.net or the P.E.A.C.E. website at: www.lanka.net/charity/peace P.E.A.C.E. is an affiliate of ECPAT International.]

Beyond Borders Applauds ECPAT Group **WAO Afrique** in Lomé Togo, Africa

On March 17th 2006 Phillippe Desmars, a French expatriate, was sentenced to 60 months imprisonment for an “act outraging public decency” against a 15-year-old Togolese girl. Desmars will be expelled from the Togo following his sentence. His accomplice was sentenced to 30 months in jail.

Cleophas Mally of WAO Afrique monitored this highly charged case closely, supported the victim and with others was considered a civil party before the court. There are no laws in Togo against rape or pedophilia, a situation that WAO Afrique is working to change.

Update from Cléophas Mally in Togo

Philippe Desmars was released because of his health condition and has returned to France. The accomplice is still in jail.

A Workout With **Beyond Borders**

By **Brenda Platt**

Why is the Beyond Borders team so energetic? Many of the Board members, including President Roz Prober, benefit from a dynamic daily dance aerobics session. Roz’s advice is to “*just keep moving*”....and that is exactly what they do!

This September, I was asked to make a brief presentation after a Saturday morning class. How could I turn down the chance to partake in the aerobics class first? Barely out of my leggings and still out of breath, I was called upon to speak to the Beyond Borders team and other class participants. Until 2003, I was the Information Officer

with the *ECPAT International Secretariat* in Bangkok. In Winnipeg to visit with my family, I was delighted to meet with Roz again after so many years. I spoke about my former work in Bangkok, some of the challenges and delights of working in Thailand, as well as the current political situation there. I also talked about my volunteer work in 2004-05 with the ECPAT group in Togo, WAO-Afrique.

Internationally or locally it is important to remember that each of us can contribute to the global effort to end the sexual exploitation of children.

JUST IN!

Please visit www.beyondborders.org to have the first look at the new **Beyond Borders Merchandise** for men, women and children. Prices range from \$5 - \$25. Great as gifts for any occasion! All purchases go to **Beyond Borders and our fight to protect children from sexual exploitation.**



Children Mean the World to the ECPAT Network!

Cycle 4 Kindness ***A Charity Bike Ride to Support Children***

By Tracy Persson

Within the last year, I embarked on a journey that even my closest friends and family were unsure that I could handle. A journey that involved many different elements to make up a charity event that I hoped would help touch the lives of children across Canada and inspire more people like myself to do the same.

Months before the event of ***Cycle 4 Kindness***, I began spinning my wheels, metaphorically and physically. While I was getting nowhere fast, I knew the hours spent cranking the pedals on my stationary road bike in my basement would all be worth it come the first week of May. A married mother of two children and a part time GPRC English student; I began to plan a cycle trip from Grande Prairie to Ottawa in an attempt to raise funds and awareness for two causes.

“I don’t ride a bike to the corner store!” is a comment I made to the local reporters when first interviewed about the trek. In attempting to cover the roughly 4200 kilometres on two wheels, we wanted to collect money and support for both ***Beyond Borders*** (an organization that works to battle child endangerment world wide) and ***Habitat for Humanity – South Peace region***.

With the local Habitat for Humanity organization having raised the funds to begin construction of a new home in Grande Prairie in July 2007, we wanted the funds raised to go towards purchasing land for the home.

Not only did we want to raise money for the two charities; once in Ottawa ***I planned to petition the federal government to raise the age of sexual consent from 14 to 16 years and lobby all Internet service providers to prohibit any and all access to child pornography.***

We came up with the idea at the end of 2005, after seeing the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina and inspiration from the 25th Anniversary of the Terry Fox Run for Cancer. I impressed by his strength and courage – I wanted to use his concept to work towards our own charitable fundraising.

Not getting into too much detail – this is where we began. On May 1, 2006, I set out on my bicycle from Grande Prairie to Ottawa. With my husband Kelly, son Tyler, daughter Mackenzie, and little puppy Sabrina following in a rented R.V. we left town by 9:00 in the morning. The

support we received along the way was overwhelming – family and friends grouped together to plan pancake breakfasts, businesses donated either cash or supplies for the trip, and strangers sent e-mails and donations my website www.cycle4kindness.com. The first two weeks were exhilarating and painstaking at the same time. I did not want to let anyone down – were the thoughts in my head to keep me motivated. Many times, I wanted to throw down the bicycle and jump in the R.V. However, the thoughts of the charities kept me going. My family is another place that I gathered strength – they endured a few bad days of whining and complaining with smiles through their clenched teeth saying, “You can do it!”

One of the true highlights of our trip was arriving in ***Winnipeg, Manitoba***. Not only did we know that we were half way done the journey, and also know that my legs were going to rest for two days, my father and stepmother would be switching off with my husband and son. We were finally going to meet in person with the voice over the phone, the president and founder of Beyond Borders, Roz Prober and her wonderful crew of admirable volunteers. This was truly an honour for our family and the reception that we received from the supper at Roz’s home to the celebration downtown truly inspired me to finish the last leg of the trip!

We made it and although I was the one riding the bike, I give the credit to my family and supporters because without their dedication and cheering from behind (sometimes literally!) I would not have completed this trip.

So, for 31 days and raising approximately \$31,000 - through 4200km, 27 campgrounds, 3 hotels, and all types of weather, we had one goal and that was to make others aware of these two charities and the fact that you do not have to be a celebrity to make a difference. ***I was honoured to represent Beyond Borders when arriving in Ottawa and meeting with our MP, Mr. Chris Warkentin, and will continue to keep myself educated on the fight to end child sexual exploitation***

Please look at my website www.cycle4kindness.com for the pictures and online journal of the trip. It will be available for all to read for the next year...and who knows, by then I may come up with another idea to try to help.

Thank you Tracy, from Beyond Borders/ECPAT

Beyond Borders Celebrates Tenth Birthday *An Overview of 10 Years of Growth and Success*

By Carole Rogers

A 10-year-old boy is abducted from a cozy little town in Saskatchewan by a previously convicted pedophile from Ontario. He had been convicted twice in Ontario and once in BC, but no one in this town has any knowledge of this. He is repeating yet again in this small community. Another Ontario man has been luring young girls in Internet chat rooms by pretending to be their friend, daring them to expose themselves using a web cam, and then blackmailing them to be even more explicit or he would post the images on the Internet for the world to see.

As a volunteer board member of *Beyond Borders*, I am again amazed at the lack of protection for children in our own country, as well as globally. How do convicted child sex offenders with a 100% chance of re-offending, manage to get released, and then travel freely to re-offend yet again? Why are we not more aware of dangerous pedophiles, if they land on our turf? What ever happened to feeling safe in the comfort and security of our own home? Why is a 14-year-old child allowed to consent to sexual relations with an adult? ***Why are children not protected from exploitation by adult predators?***

These are the critical issues facing police and lawmakers around the world today. These are the current issues Beyond Borders has been combating diligently to resolve. It began 10 years ago when *Rosalind Prober*, a local advocate of children's rights, and *Mark Hecht*, a human rights lawyer from Ottawa, attended as part of the Canadian delegation, the first *World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children* in Stockholm, Sweden. They came out of this conference with the realization that it wasn't just Canadian offenders committing acts against foreign children in other countries, but that Canadian children at home were at risk as well from sexual abuse by sex tourists in our country, and even family members, and people of trust.

Beyond Borders was born in November, 1996, from a need to ensure justice for children at home and everywhere. Since then a core group of volunteers consisting of lawyers, activists, and concerned citizens have been working to promote the rights of children and end child sexual exploitation in Canada and the world. In September 1999 Beyond Borders was granted affiliate status with *ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution, Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes)* which now operates in 70 countries around the world. Roz Prober is the President of Beyond Borders, and also sits on the Board of ECPAT.

She and her dedicated group of lawyers who now stem from Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg have volunteered time and expertise to push for changes in the laws and for new laws to address the issues of children.

Beyond Borders' first challenge was a sexual tourism bill that dealt with the prosecution of offences against foreign children in other countries by Canadian adults. Beyond Borders realized this law did not cover Canadian children on foreign soil. The resulting "***Prober Amendment***" broadened the legislation. Since then Beyond Borders has been actively monitoring courts and liaising with law enforcement to promote prosecutions under this offence. ***We are pleased to report that Canada has recently had its first conviction of a child sex tourist from Vancouver under this law.***

Beyond Borders has taken the lead in influencing legislative change, intervening on behalf of anonymous victims of child pornography, and exposing sexual predators. Beyond Borders has actively supported raising the age of consent to sex with an adult from 14 to 16 years, with an age exemption of 5 years to allow for teens to explore their own sexuality with someone close in age. ***The federal government has now introduced a bill to this effect.***

Beyond Borders was one of the founders of Canada's national hotline www.cybertip.ca which takes reports on online sexual exploitation of children. We support a national sex offender registry that has at least limited access for the public, not just law enforcement as it is now. Beyond Borders has lobbied successfully for Internet luring legislation to stop predators from using the Internet as a vehicle for child abuse and pornography. We urge the government to restrict convicted predators from traveling freely abroad.

In short, Beyond Borders promotes a proactive stand against child sexual exploitation in all its forms of child sex tourism, child pornography, Internet luring, and adult sex with children.

Our message to parents is, allow your children access to the Internet only in a central part of your home. Warn them about the dark side of the Internet and to be sensible and wary of strange people in chat rooms. ***A predator will go to any length to lure a child into his lurid web. The Internet should be a web of information, not a web of deceit. Use it wisely!***