

FOR EDUCATORS



NEW CYBERBULLYING RESOURCES

Education Modules
Addressing Sexual Exploitation,
Technology and Bullying



CANADIAN CENTRE *for* **CHILD PROTECTION**®

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The *Canadian Centre for Child Protection* (protectchildren.ca) is a charitable organization dedicated to the personal safety of all children. Our goal is to reduce child victimization by providing national programs and services to Canadians. The Canadian Centre operates *Kids in the Know* (kidsintheknow.ca) — an interactive safety education program for increasing the personal safety of children; *MissingKids.ca* (missingkids.ca) — Canada's missing children resource and response centre; *Commit to Kids* (commit2kids.ca) — a program to help organizations prevent child sexual abuse, and *Cybertip.ca* (cybertip.ca) — Canada's tipline for reporting the online sexual exploitation of children.

Cybertip.ca receives an average of 2,000 reports per month from Canadians and is a part of the *Government of Canada's National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation on the Internet*. The knowledge gained from cases reported to *Cybertip.ca* informs our personal safety strategies for children and youth, particularly within the *Kids in the Know* program.

In the last few years, Cybertip.ca has seen a marked increase in reports from youth ranging from 12 to 17 years of age. Recognizing the diverse and complex nature of this issue, and our role in protecting children from online sexual exploitation, our organization is developing two new educational modules focused on addressing sexual exploitation, sexual violence, technology and bullying among youth.

Education Module for Grades 7/8 will help manage online risk

An education module for Grades 7/8 is being created in response to emerging online risks and recent tragedies involving young people in Canada. In an effort to reduce the incidence of adolescent sexual exploitation, the unit will address adults using technology to exploit children for a sexual purpose, self/peer exploitation (sexting or selfies) and cyberbullying.

Lessons will address the following issues:

- ✓ How personal boundaries increase personal safety
- ✓ How to establish personal boundaries
- ✓ Identifying behavior that presents risk to sexual exploitation (online and offline)
- ✓ Identifying the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships (online and offline)
- ✓ Responding to unsafe situations and getting help

Did You Know?

- *For many youth, dating relationships begin before high school; a study released by Teenage Research Unlimited reported that 72% of youth were involved in dating relationships by age 14¹.*
- *Only half of all tweens claim to know the warning signs of a bad/hurtful dating relationship. Only 54% said they would know what to do if a friend came to them for help¹.*
- *Youth between the ages of 13-14 are very vulnerable to online luring; the use of “telecommunications” to communicate with someone known or believed to be under the age of 18 to make it easier to commit a sexual offence against that person².*
- *According to a recent study released by Media Smarts³, mean or cruel online behaviour spikes in Grade 7 and increases in Grade 8.*

¹Teenage Research Unlimited: Tween and Teen Dating Violence and Abuse Study, 2008

²Canadian Centre for Child Protection, preliminary results of study of reports made by the public to Cybertip.ca about online luring between September 2007 and June 2011, <https://www.cybertip.ca/app/en/projects-research>

³Media Smarts: Young Canadians in a Wired World, Phase III “Cyberbullying: Dealing with Online Meanness, Cruelty and Threats”, accessed online May 5, 2014

The Important Role of Schools

Schools play a fundamental role in assisting and supporting students and their families. If a young person is struggling, a school's swift and comprehensive response plan can mitigate the trauma. Effective intervention and support of those victimized by cyberbullying, self/peer exploitation, luring and sexual violence is essential. Educators have a unique and important role in shaping the attitudes and beliefs of young people and in reducing the stigmatization and associated blame that is often tied to sexual exploitation and sexual violence involving adolescents.

Cyberbullying Risk Assessment Guide

The issue of cyberbullying is diverse and complex given that much of the harm facing young people involves sexuality and technology in combination with the onslaught of bullying behaviour. To assist school professionals in identifying children at risk of harm, the Canadian Centre for Child Protection is creating a resource guide to help Principals, Teachers and Counsellors address and intervene in cases of extreme cyberbullying. The guide will provide information with regards to schools' authority to act and respond to crisis situations when sexual exploitation, technology and bullying collide.

Considerations for schools: If an intimate image of a student was circulating at your school and a student was being cyberbullied as a result of that image, consider how you would:

- ✓ Notify the parents of the students involved without overexposing the affected student?
- ✓ Know what questions to ask the affected youth to determine severity of harm?
- ✓ Develop a plan for containing the content?
- ✓ Assess the emotional well-being of the affected youth?
- ✓ Know when and if to contact law enforcement?

To assist school professionals in identifying children at risk of harm, the Canadian Centre for Child Protection is creating a resource guide to help Principals, Teachers and Counsellors address and intervene in cases of extreme cyberbullying.

Education Module for Grades 9/10 will empower youth

An education module for Grades 9/10 is being created in response to instances of sexual violence among youth. In an effort to educate youth about sexual consent, respect and healthy relationships, this unit will address the many misconceptions about sexual consent in our society and provide opportunities for empowering youth to make healthy choices in difficult situations.

Lessons will address the following issues:

- ✓ Attitudes and beliefs that contribute to sexual violence
- ✓ Information about what constitutes sexual consent and what doesn't
- ✓ Distinguishing between healthy and unhealthy relationships
- ✓ Knowing how to help a friend who discloses sexual abuse or assault
- ✓ Knowing where to go for help

Did You Know?

- *The rate of sexual assault for Canadians aged 15 to 24 was almost 18 times greater than the rate recorded for Canadians aged 55 years and older⁴*
- *Sexual assault incidents are most likely to occur when a victim and offender are known to each other⁴*
- *Violence in an adolescent relationship sets the stage for problems in future relationships, including intimate partner violence and sexual violence perpetration and/or victimization throughout life⁵*

⁴Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics Profile Series, *Sexual Assault in Canada 2004* by Shannon Brennan and Andrea Taylor-Butts, 2008

⁵Dating Matters®: *Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships*: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/DatingMatters/index.html>, accessed April 28 2014



Model in image and intended as illustrative.



If you are interested in learning more about these new educational resources for educators, please contact the Canadian Centre for Child Protection at contact@protectchildren.ca.



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Available in French on request.