Online Child Sexual Exploitation
Learning from the Past, Preparing for the Future

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Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children/Behavioural Sciences Branch (CPCMEC/BSB)

- The National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains (NCMPUR)
- Behavioural Sciences Branch (BSB)
- Truth Verification
- National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC)
- Strategic and Operational Support Services (SOSS)
Canada’s National Strategy

• Citizen Tipline, Public Education
  Canadian Centre for Child Protection
  www.cybertip.ca

• Law Enforcement
  National Child Exploitation and Coordination Centre (NCECC)
  www.ncecc.ca
Real crimes...real victims...local reality

Lethbridge man arrested on child porn charges

Man arrested after looking at child porn on a computer in an Edmonton library

ALERT's Operation ICE Storm 3 leads to 10 child-pornography related arrests

Alberta mother and daycare worker charged with child pornography crimes involving her four-year-old son

Bonneville man charged with child porn offences

An Edmonton man with a “disturbing” child pornography collection handed 10-year prison sentence

Robert Williams Charged With Child Pornography Offences in Medicine Hat
Can you help...the importance of partnership

• Not solely a policing issue: societal issue

• The Three “E’s”
  - Engage
  - Educate
  - Empower

• Minds are like umbrellas...
Youth Online Presence

• Important to be online socially

• Need to be technologically literate

• Youth are more tech savvy than many adults

• Child and youth development phases

• Consequences: positive and negative

Source: Public Domain (pixabay)
Offenders Online Presence

- Increased anonymity, access, and lack of accountability

- Access, produce, distribute materials (i.e., child pornography, cartoons, “how to manuals”)

- Use of adult materials (“barely legal”) to reduce inhibitions

- Establish and engage in contact with like-minded individuals who share their pro-abuse ideologies
Worlds Collide…

• 3.2 billion people were online (State of Connectivity 2015: A Report on Global Internet Access, Facebook)

• One of the most ‘wired’ countries – 87% of Canadian households connected, ranked 16th globally in terms of Internet penetration in 2013 (Canadian Internet Registration Authority)

“I wish the iPhone was never invented” 15 year old male
“I wish they would just unplug the Internet” male offender
Canadian Youth are Wired (Media Smarts, 2014)

- 99% of Canadian students in grades 4-11 have Internet access from home

- 25% of students in grade 4 have their own cell phones (85% by grade 11)

- 24% of teens spend an average of 3 hours online each day

- 15% met with someone they had met in a chat room
The Scope of the Problem

- Millions of websites
- Made to order, pay-per-view
- Chat sites defending child/adult sex
- Individual collections:
  - 100,000+ images/videos
  - Numerous storage devices
Overview of Offences

Avenues for online child sexual exploitation

1. Child Sexual Abuse Material (Child Pornography)
   • production, distribution, possession, accessing

2. Child Luring, Attempt Assault/Abduction

3. Transnational Child Sex Offenders
Perception of Child Pornography

• Misperceptions
  – Children on beaches
  – Children in bathing suits
  – Children in bath tubs

• Reality
  – Child sexual abuse images
  – Sexual assault evidence
Internet Chat – Child Luring

- Offenders use public chat rooms to find potential victims

- Conversations begin in a public room often leading to private chats

- Grooming through these chats, potential for luring a child to meet off-line for a sexual interaction
[12:47] <Cruise27> 27/m/arizona here. how are you?
[12:48] <mandieD12> good
[12:48] <Cruise27> cool :)
[12:48] <mandieD12> is it hot down there
[12:48] <Cruise27> it's perfect right nwo
[12:49] <mandieD12> its raining here
[12:49] <mandieD12> what do u do
[12:50] <Cruise27> i'm a manager for a logistics company
[12:50] <Cruise27> do you like older guys? :)
[12:51] <mandieD12> cool i wish i had a job
[12:51] <mandieD12> i dont know i guess
[12:52] <Cruise27> do you have a bf?
[12:52] <mandieD12> naw mom wont let me says im to yung
[12:53] <Cruise27> she's right
[12:53] <Cruise27> unless you are my gf :}
Offender “Support” Sites

- Pro-abuse ideologies
- “Normalize” adult-child sexual relationships
- Recruitment of children/youth
How to Practice Child Love

• Manuals

• Tips and techniques
  – Age and sex specifics
  – Access
  – Develop rapport
  – Avoid detection
Social Networking Websites

– Potential meeting place for those seeking access to children/youth – often used in the grooming and luring of children
– Sharing of personal information
– Posting sexualized images
– Adults share grooming techniques

Source: Public Domain (pixabay)
Impact on Victims/Survivors

- World View
- Permanency of the images/materials
- Continuous and repeated traumatization (re-victimization)
  - Online component lacks an ‘end’ to the abuse
- Victim Blaming
- Offender – victim relationship
- Lack of control
  - Experience a loss of privacy, lack of consent and sense of helplessness
Themes: Victim Impact Statements

- Constant fear of images resurfacing
- Never know who will recognize me from the images
- Hurts to know that people wanted to view the materials
- I didn’t choose this to happen to me
- Powerless in the victimization, powerless to stop the sharing of materials online
- At anytime, someone, somewhere may be looking at those images and doing sick things
- Could be using those images to victimize someone else
Victim Service Providers

• Need to work with other sectors to increase knowledge

• Not seeing the materials, youth not discussing openly with care providers

• Ryerson Study: looking at identifying multi-sectoral barriers to sharing of information
  – Who sees what when and why or why not…
Health and Wellness of Police Employees

Technical Investigative Challenges: Inability to locate offenders, access evidence, cloud storage, international investigations

Resource-related Challenges: Workload, lack of human resources, image categorization

Personal Challenges: Viewing/reading child sexual exploitation material, reluctance to seek counselling, lack of understanding
Symptoms of Stress: What are we hearing?

- Overworking/burnout
- Vicarious traumatization, Secondary Traumatic Stress (STS)
- Physiological or emotional symptoms
- Giving 110% to work - undermine self-care, time with family
- Impact not always apparent until after leaving

Positive Impacts:

- Internal reflection and reprioritization of values
- Sense of accomplishment
- Effectively cope with future stress
Coping Strategies

- Support from colleagues/management
- Peer mentoring system
- Humour
- Taking care of yourself (eating/sleeping/exercise)
- Objective viewing
- Rituals/routine
- Flexibility in shifts (compressed, more time to decompress)
Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT)

- International alliance
  - Law enforcement, NGOs, industry partners
- Working together to keep kids safer online
- International Research Study

United States
Canada
Italy
Netherlands
United Arab Emirates
Colombia
Rep. of Korea
Australia
New Zealand
United Kingdom
Switzerland
+ INTERPOL & EUROPOL
Canadian Centre for Child Protection (C3P)

Mission:

• Reduce the incidence of missing and sexually exploited children
• Educate the public on child personal safety and sexual exploitation
• Assist in the location of missing children
• Advocate for and increase awareness of issues relating to missing and sexually exploited children

cybertipica.ca
missingkids.ca
kidsintheknow.ca
Canadiアン Centre for Child Protection
Helping families. Protecting children.
Collaborative Research Opportunities

1) What are some the key challenges in this area?

2) What are some gaps you think need to be addressed?

3) Are there opportunities for collaboration?
Contact Information

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