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**MANDATORY REPORTING OF  
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY IN MANITOBA:  
CYBERTIP.CA'S 2019/20 ANNUAL REVIEW**





Model in image and intended as illustrative.

This report was published in June 2020 by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc. It highlights the Canadian Centre for Child Protection's role under Manitoba's mandatory reporting legislation and is a summary of activities from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 within the province of Manitoba.

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# THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR CHILD PROTECTION



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

*Helping families. Protecting children.*

The CANADIAN CENTRE FOR CHILD PROTECTION (Canadian Centre) is a national charity dedicated to the personal safety and protection of children. Our goal is to reduce the sexual abuse and exploitation of children, to assist in the location of missing children, and to prevent child victimization by providing national programs and services to the Canadian public. The Canadian Centre owns and operates Cybertip.ca, Canada's tipline for reporting the online sexual abuse and exploitation of children. The tipline has been in operation since September 26, 2002, and was adopted under the Government of Canada's *National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation on the Internet* in May 2004.

Reports to **cybertip!ca**® are submitted by the public under one of eight categories:



### Child Pornography

(Child Sexual Abuse Material or CSAM)



### Online Luring



### Children Exploited Through Prostitution



### Child Sex-Tourism



### Child Trafficking



### Making Sexually Explicit Material Available to a Child



### Agreement or Arrangement with Another Person to Commit a Sexual Offence against a Child



### Non-Consensual Distribution of Intimate Images

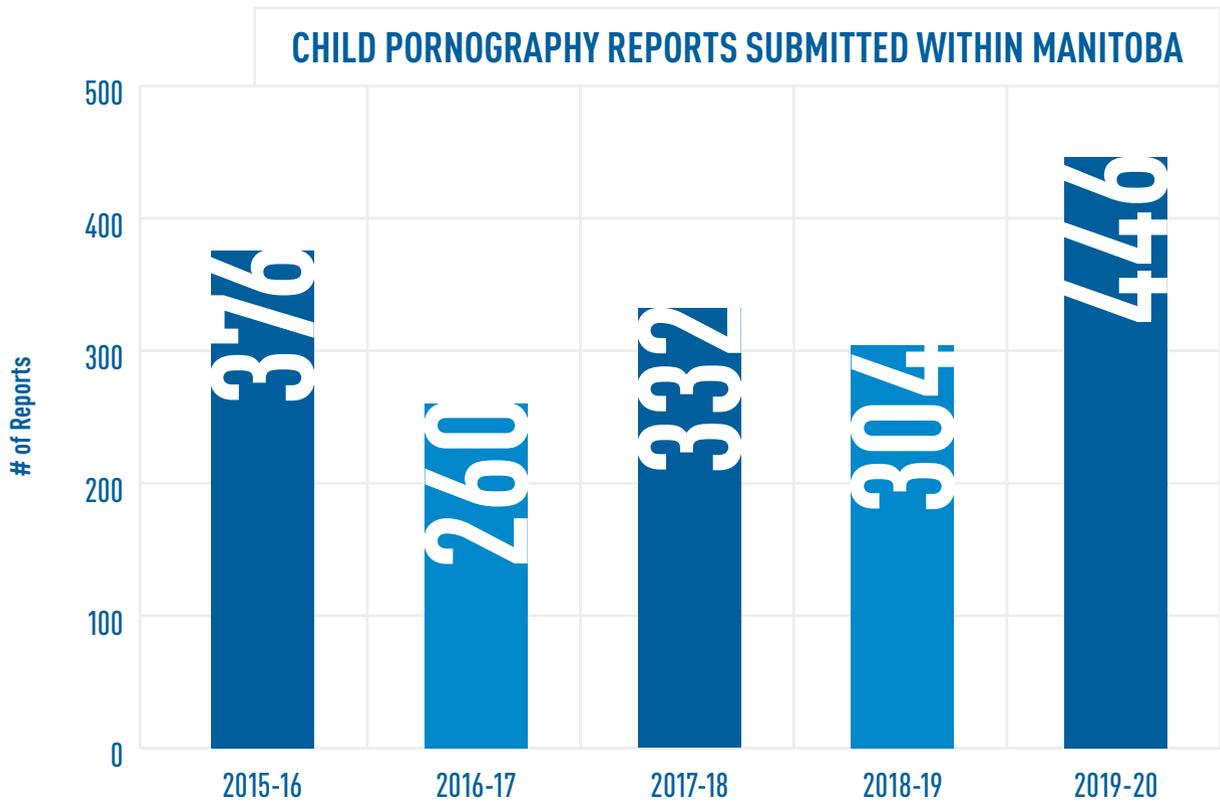
As of March 31, 2020, **3,208,253 reports were processed by Cybertip.ca**. In 2019/20, we processed **1,371,796 reports** of which Project Arachnid accounted for 98% of the reports processed.

Approximately 98% of the child sexual exploitation (CSE) reports processed in 2019/20 were forwarded to one, or a combination of, the following entities: law enforcement agencies (LEAs), child welfare agencies, and/or INHOPE member hotlines, or a notice was sent to an electronic service provider. As of March 31, 2020, Cybertip.ca was aware of **at least 562 arrests executed by LEAs** and **at least 520 children removed from abusive environments** in connection with reports submitted to the tipline by the Canadian public.

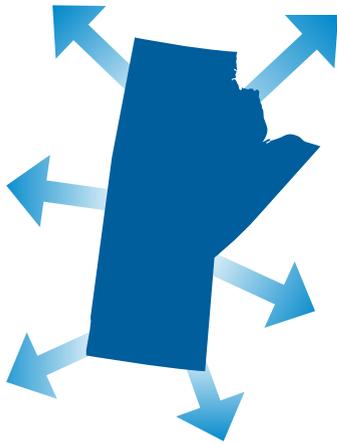
# OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

The *Child and Family Services Act* obligates all people in Manitoba to report suspected child pornography to Cybertip.ca for assessment. Under the legislation, where Cybertip.ca has determined that a child pornography incident may have occurred in Manitoba, Cybertip.ca will take action to protect a child by reporting the matter to a child and family services agency or a LEA, or to both as necessary, and take any further action as may be set out in the regulations. **The goal of mandatory reporting is to facilitate the reporting of children potentially in need of protection.**

A total of **4,057 reports** have been submitted by individuals within Manitoba and classified as child pornography since proclamation of mandatory reporting of child pornography in Manitoba in 2009. **In 2019/2020, Cybertip.ca processed 446 reports submitted by individuals within Manitoba under the category of child pornography, a 44% increase over the average submissions for the last 5 years (310).**



Between April 1, 2019, and March 31, 2020, the majority of reports (87%) submitted under the same criteria were submitted by individuals who chose not to provide their contact information. This statistic has been fairly consistent over the past five years given that in most cases, an individual who comes across a website that may contain child pornography likely has no idea who the children in the images are nor do they have any suspect information. Therefore, it is not surprising they would decide to remain anonymous.



In 2019/20, 80% of the reports submitted by individuals within Manitoba were forwarded to LEAs or other entities such as electronic service providers (ESPs) for removal. The majority of what is reported by individuals within Manitoba does not relate to content/incidents within the province. This demonstrates the importance of having a reporting entity to vet and forward reports to the appropriate agencies/jurisdictions and is consistent with the triaging rate for other provinces.



Of the reports received through mandatory reporting since proclamation on April 15, 2009, 1,679 were forwarded to a law enforcement agency, sent to an INHOPE member hotline or a notice was issued to a service provider for removal. A total of 176 reports classified as child pornography and containing information on an identified child victim and/or suspect in Manitoba have been forwarded to child welfare since proclamation on April 15, 2009.

In 2019/20, the Canadian Centre engaged in the following activities which helped to underscore the importance of this legislation and the ongoing significance of training, education, and public awareness. Further detail is provided in subsequent sections:

**PG. 10**

In-person training for almost **2,000** parents, educators, school administrators, child welfare professionals, clinicians, and youth in Manitoba.



**PG. 11**

Providing online training to **7,700+** professionals and volunteers in Manitoba on the issue of child sexual abuse through the Commit to Kids program.



**PG. 32**

Preparing and filing **victim impact statements** and **community impact statements** in Manitoba courts and across Canada, along with keeping Manitoba Crown updated on relevant case law.



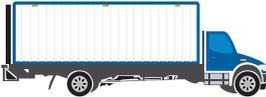
**PG. 13**

Executing **public awareness campaigns** to inform Manitobans about current issues, risks, and how they can get help, as well as highlighting the importance of Cybertip.ca's services.



**PG. 10**

Distributing **67,300+** education, prevention, and awareness resources in Manitoba.



**PG. 11**

Launching new **FREE online lessons** for educators, and online training for professionals working with children.



**PG. 31**

**New resources** for the public on the topic of understanding child sexual abuse, as well as how to protect their own children.



**PG. 27**

**Expanding the removal notice criteria** for Project Arachnid for content that doesn't fall under the *Criminal Code* to support victims of online exploitation and imagery in Manitoba and across the country.



**PG. 12**

Providing Manitoba's law enforcement community, including the Military Police at CFB Winnipeg, with access to **Commit to Kids child sexual abuse awareness online training for officers**, and resources to share with Manitoba families.



# MANDATORY REPORTING OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

## 2019/20 STATISTICS

The following information pertains to reports submitted by individuals within Manitoba under the category of **child pornography** between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020.

In 2019/20, Cybertip.ca received **446 reports** by individuals within Manitoba under the category of child pornography:

**89%** of the reported incidents<sup>1</sup> pertained to websites

**34%** of the incidents were classified<sup>2</sup> as child pornography, child pornography (unconfirmed), child pornography – making available (confirmed or unconfirmed), or child pornography – written/audio upon analysis

**98%** of reports were submitted through Cybertip.ca's online report form, while the remaining 2% were submitted via the toll-free phone line

**87%** of individuals reporting child pornography concerns chose not to provide contact information

<sup>1</sup> Reports are broken down into their component parts based on the number of incidents in a report. For example, one public report may contain information about a website and a chatroom. This would be considered two separate incidents and are analyzed independently.

<sup>2</sup> Each incident is assigned a secondary [Cybertip.ca] classification by a child protection analyst based on the *Criminal Code* [Canada]. This is either a confirmation or correction of the reporting person's classification.



**51%** of individuals within Manitoba who submitted a child pornography report that involved child victim and/or suspect information provided their contact information

**26%** of reporting persons purported to be 18-30 years of age, 14% 31-50 years of age, 2% under 18, 2% 51 and over, and the remaining 54% did not specify an age

**37%** of reports submitted by individuals within Manitoba and classified by the reporting person as child pornography were forwarded to LEAs/INHOPE hotlines or a notice was issued to an electronic service provider to have the reported material removed

**14** reports classified by Cybertip.ca as child pornography were sent to child welfare and law enforcement within Manitoba

**5** reports classified by Cybertip.ca as something other than child pornography were also forwarded to child welfare

Feedback from child welfare on the 14 reports classified by Cybertip.ca as child pornography includes:

- » 1 report concluded as Substantiated Allegations
- » 4 reports concluded as Unsubstantiated Allegations
- » 1 report concluded as Inconclusive Abuse
- » 4 reports concluded as No Apparent Child Protection Concerns
- » 3 reports remain as Open Investigations
- » 1 report was forwarded to a child welfare agency outside the province of Manitoba and no additional feedback was provided.

## Sample Reports

In July 2019, Cybertip.ca received a report with allegations that a reported male individual was in possession of and distributing child sexual abuse material through social media. The reported information included concerns about the individual's access to children through his work and volunteer activities. The report was forwarded to both law enforcement and child welfare. An investigation into the allegations is ongoing.



In September 2019, Cybertip.ca received a report regarding a male who was alleged to have viewed child pornography. The allegations included concerns the individual may have access to a child and these allegations are currently being investigated by child welfare. The information was forwarded to both law enforcement and child welfare. An investigation into the allegations is ongoing.



The Canadian Centre participated in a press conference with the Winnipeg Police Services regarding their proactive Project Hook initiative, which addressed online child exploitation. As a result, eight people were arrested and charged with luring. The project also served to direct the public to Cybertip.ca for safety information and how to report online exploitation concerns.



# TRAINING, EDUCATION, AND RESOURCES

In 2019/20, the Canadian Centre provided training and resources for child welfare and other professionals as it relates to the issue of sexually exploited children. This included:



**1,620+ people** were reached with in-person Kids in the Know training which included:

- » **105 parents** reached with online and offline person safety information
- » **750 youth** reached with online and offline personal safety information
- » **367 educators, administrators, and clinicians** within the schools system about programs and services, implementing Kids in the Know, and a systems-based approach to safety.



**1,550+ Kids in the Know digital lesson accounts** were provided to educators across Manitoba.



**2,300+ Commit to Kids Program Kits and Commit to Kids resources** distributed to child serving organizations



**290+** professionals have received in-person Commit to Kids training

Model in image and intended as illustrative.



**7,700+ users** have been provided with online access to the Commit to Kids training



The Canadian Centre has been working with B & L Resources for Children, Youth, and Families to train all staff through C2K and in 2019-20 the organization purchased **270 C2K training accounts** for all their foster parents.



**Post-secondary institutions**, such as the University of Manitoba, are using C2K online training as part of their Faculty of Education programming.

### New Training: Commit to Kids level one

The Canadian Centre is committed to making professional development accessible to as many people working with and caring for children as possible – whether it's providing flexible formats or varying levels of information.

In fall 2019, we launched Commit to Kids: An Introduction to Safeguarding Children from Sexual Abuse. This brief online training is for individuals who work with children looking for introductory level information on child sexual abuse, or those looking to refresh their knowledge on the topic. Parents who have children in child-serving organizations may also find the content relevant.

Since its release, **3,500+** accounts for **35+** organizations were ordered/issued in Manitoba.

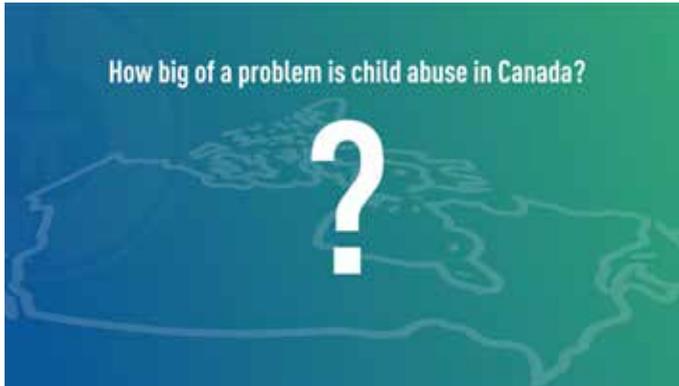


## TRAINING FOR CROWNS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

### Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs)

Manitoba's LEAs are on the frontlines of protecting children and as such are in the perfect position to help share Canadian Centre resources, whether it be by directly working with schools and families, or through their social media channels. Over the past year, we provided LEAs across the province with education and prevention resources, as well as providing the medium and message to promote public awareness. Highlights include:

- Expanding our reach within the law enforcement community to those working with the Canadian Armed Forces, meeting with Military Police at CFB Winnipeg and providing access to the Canadian Centre's online training, as well as resources that can be shared with families who experience victimization.



- Winnipeg Police Service new recruits can access to the Commit to Kids as a part of their training. Additionally, any members of the Winnipeg Police Child Abuse Unit or those interested in applying to the unit are required to complete the Commit to Kids Child online training and will receive access the Canadian Centre's Expert Video Series, the next level in the training, upon completion.
- Officers from across Manitoba who attended the Police Studies Program offered by Assiniboine Community College are provided access to both the Commit to Kids Program and the Expert Series for law enforcement officers.

### Crowns

The Canadian Centre's legal department continues to work with Manitoba Crowns to provide case law updates throughout the year, as well as participating in applicable presentations such as the National Civil Forfeiture Executive Committee meeting.

## Panel on the Non-consensual Distribution of Intimate Images

The Canadian Centre's General Counsel Monique St. Germain, and Program Manager for Cybertip.ca Catherine Tabak presented at an information session hosted by the Shameless Circle, a Winnipeg-based organization that provides free programming for women who have experienced shame for a variety of reasons, including as a result of the non-consensual distribution of an intimate image of them. Information was provided about the evolution of the law in this area, as well as Cybertip.ca's services for victims of this crime.

The session was open to members of the public, and attendees included victims of this crime and other service providers (e.g., counsellors, representatives from local women's groups). The presentation was also an important part of fulfilling the Canadian Centre's role under *Manitoba's Intimate Image Act Protection Act*.



Model in image and intended as illustrative.

# MANDATORY REPORTING PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Cybertip.ca is tasked with raising the public's awareness in the province of Manitoba regarding the mandatory reporting of child pornography. Public awareness and outreach activities continue to be a key focus for Cybertip.ca. Raising public awareness coupled with resources, advocacy, and action is essential to making an impact on protecting Manitoba's children and supporting families, as well as creating a greater awareness of this important service.

## *Some Voices are Hard to Hear, But Should Be Heard*

The Canadian Centre supports survivors of CSAM through specialized resources, advocacy, research, and public awareness. The campaign, *Some Voices are Hard to Hear, But Should Be Heard*, literally put CSAM survivor's voices front and centre, using their direct quotes and audio statements in this powerful print and social campaign.

The Canadian Centre tapped into CBC's broad audience running both banner ads and pre-roll videos across the outlet's news websites which generated 250,000+ and 300,000+ impressions respectively.

On social media users were directed to learn more about the Canadian Centre's work with survivors by going to [cybertip.ca/survivors](https://cybertip.ca/survivors). Utilizing a short, impactful audio clip from a real CSAM survivor, the social video generated over one million impressions through Instagram stories alone, with another million coming through Facebook and Twitter. The dedicated page people were directed to by social received **over 23,000 unique page views** over the course of the month-long campaign, with over 6% of users coming in from Manitoba.

*The Manitoba campaign also included 11 urban and rural billboards, eight half page ads in Winnipeg and rural newspapers, and 117 digital and classic in-bathroom advertising. However, due to COVID-19 many of the campaigns continued past the fiscal year or were placed on hold so results as of March 31, 2020 were not available.*





Model in image and intended as illustrative.

## Lollipop Takedown Exhibit and Campaign

Every 12 hours the Canadian Centre is detecting 10,824 new images of child sexual abuse online through Project Arachnid. As a jarring visual representation of the amount of imagery, the Canadian Centre developed *Lolli, The Exhibit Nobody Wants to Talk About*.

The installation, located at Stackt Market in Toronto, was open July 12–14 and saw over 1,300 visitors, including Toronto Mayor John Tory, and had extensive media coverage across the country. Between online, radio, and TV reports, the total media reach was approximately 125 million.<sup>3</sup>



**Manitoba media greatly contributed to this number as Global News Winnipeg's online feature was syndicated 24 times for a total of 13,600,000+ impressions, the Winnipeg Sun's syndicated coverage generated 17,800,000+ impressions, while additional Manitoba radio and television coverage offered over four million impressions.**

<sup>3</sup> Media analytics were provided by No Fixed Address (NFA).



Lollipops, a term child sex offenders use for their victims, were at the centre of the exhibit, standing in as proxies for this horrendous content. The cheery colours and sweet smell of the candy were quickly juxtaposed with signage throughout the exhibit that featured dark web comments from offenders and highlighted the scope of the problem, as well as auditory experiences where the voices of CSAM survivors explained how this material has affected their lives.



However, as visitors neared the exit they were given a glimpse of hope, learning about the capabilities of Project Arachnid and how it can help break the cycles of abuse and fear for survivors.

At the same time the Canadian Centre launched a supporting social media campaign pre and post exhibit. Toronto ad agency No Fixed Address provided the Canadian Centre with a powerful exhibit walk-through video that combined the reactions of visitors with voiceovers of the CSAM survivors represented in *Lolli*. The reactions online were as equally visceral to those who experienced the exhibit in person:

*"So disturbing! I wish I could un-see and un-hear this, but I guess that's the problem. We need to protect our children & hear them."*

– Twitter comment

*"So horrible but glad it's being brought to light. Hopefully this is the movement that will save thousands of innocent children from being abused and victimized."*

– Facebook comment

*"Thank you for your commitment and efforts to bring awareness and put a stop to this. Child pornography is a profoundly disturbing and delicate issue to tackle. I think this lollipop takedown is a very good step in the right direction."*

– Instagram comment

**Organic posts have since generated over 21,000 impressions, while paid social resulted in 900,000+ impressions and almost 31,000 link clicks to [lollipoptakedown.ca](http://lollipoptakedown.ca), the campaign's supporting website, with almost 5% of that coming from Manitoba.**



### Are Your Kids Streaming for Everyone to See?

On Safer Internet Day (SID), held at the beginning of February each year, people around the world join forces to teach children and youth about using online technology in a safe and responsible way. For SID 2020, the Canadian Centre urged families to talk with their tweens about the risks of live streaming after Cybertip.ca saw a **57% increase**<sup>4</sup> in reports of adults contacting children ages 8 – 12 to engage in sexual activities over live stream.

The Canadian Centre sent out a press release that not only covered some of the related cases the tipline has been seeing, but also provided tips for parents/guardians to help keep their kids safe online. Additionally, the Canadian Centre highlighted reporting to Cybertip.ca as an important step if they become aware of their child being coerced into engaging in sexual activity over live stream or sharing sexual images online.



| Image Credit: CTV News Winnipeg, February 11, 2020

<sup>4</sup> 68 reports in 2018 versus 107 reports in 2019.

## Cybertip.ca ALERTS !

Cybertip.ca Alerts are notifications sent out to inform the public of concerning technology trends impacting children and ways to reduce risk. Between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020, Cybertip.ca issued an alert after the COVID-19 pandemic shut down schools, resulting in children likely spending more time online at home.

The alert generated media response across the country, and Cybertip.ca Director Stephen Sauer sat down for half a dozen interviews to discuss some of the risks

and what parents can do to reduce harm during this unprecedented time. Again, the importance of reporting to Cybertip.ca was highlighted for situations where the public becomes aware of children being coerced into engaging in sexual activity over live stream or sharing sexual images online.

The alert also spawned a blog post on ProtectKidsOnline.ca – **which was read by over 260 Manitobans** - that provided parents with similar tips, and was supported by a social media campaign that generated over 200,000 impressions and 5,400+ clicks to the site.

*The Canadian Centre continued to provide families, schools, and child-serving organization with information and resources tied to online safety during the continued shutdown of schools in April<sup>5</sup> and beyond. This included developing a dedicated resource page on [protectchildren.ca](http://protectchildren.ca).*



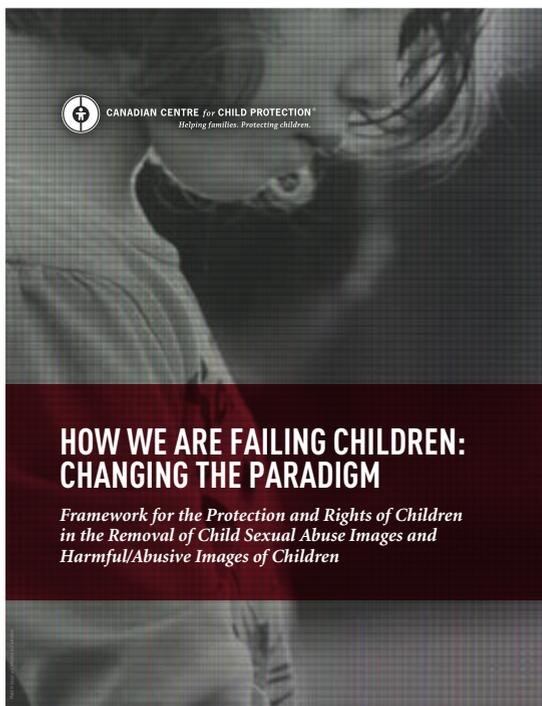
During these months the tipline saw a dramatic increase in online exploitation reports – in the first two weeks of April alone reporting went up by **40%** - that included grooming or luring offences, unwanted and repeated communication from strangers, and sextortion.

<sup>5</sup> April 1, 2020 is the start of the Canadian Centre's 2020-21 fiscal year, and as such information beyond that will be discussed further in the 2020-2021 *Social Value Report*.

# VICTIM IDENTIFICATION AND SUPPORT

In October 2014, the Canadian Centre launched its transformational plan, the *Digital Agenda for Protecting Canada's Youngest and Most Vulnerable Children*. The *Digital Agenda* has served as the cornerstone of our agency's efforts for a number of years, and has been further strengthened with the addition of our *Victim Identification and Support Strategy*.

From these initiatives, the Canadian Centre focused on two key pillars: reducing the availability of CSAM, and improving support systems for survivors.

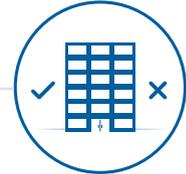


## HOW WE ARE FAILING CHILDREN: CHANGING THE PARADIGM

In 2019, Canadian Centre added another document to its arsenal to further strengthen these cornerstones – a new children's rights framework. *How We Are Failing Children: Changing the Paradigm* is an urgent call to action for governments, industry, and hotlines around the world. Current policies for the removal of child sexual abuse images have been focused on determining and removing material deemed illegal under criminal law. **In contrast, this framework is grounded in the best interests of the child, and their right to dignity, privacy, and protection from harm.** The undeniable truth is the rights of a victimized child will be continually violated as long as images of them being sexually harmed and abused are available on the internet.

While there are many ways in which this epidemic is not being addressed appropriately, *How We Are Failing Children: Changing the Paradigm* the framework has identified several key areas of concern:

- A rigid adherence to narrow criminal law definitions. Criminal definitions do not account for the wide range of harmful/abusive images that are available, and are too restrictive when making decisions about image removal. This means a significant proportion of harmful/abusive images remain online.
- The varying levels of willingness by technology companies to safeguarding children. Some industry members are swift to remove material once they are notified, and others enter into debates or ignore notices all together.
- Failure to remove all images in an abusive series. Numerous images are created in connection with an abusive series, some of which do not (in isolation) technically meet a criminal law threshold, but are still a part of the continuum of abuse experienced by the child. For example, a series may start with an image of a child being clothed and then the images progress to the child being sexually abused. The clothed image is still a memorialization of the child's abuse.
- Inconsistent and subjective assessment processes by industry. For some industry members, any signs of physical maturity will result in an image not being removed in spite of having received the removal request from a trusted/verified hotline.
- Physical abuse images/videos are often not addressed. The physical abuse is extreme and sometimes includes elements of bondage or even physical torture.
- Arbitrary application of terms of service by industry. Companies interpret and apply these rules without any real avenues for review or appeal by members of the public. Operating independent of any meaningful oversight has inevitably resulted in arbitrary decisions associated with image removal.



Model image and intended as illustrative.



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Through *How We Are Failing Children: Changing the Paradigm*, the Canadian Centre is proposing a set of principles for action that prioritizes the protection and rights of children in the removal of child sexual abuse images and harmful/abusive images. These include:

- Expanding removal to include all harmful and abusive images of children, including:
  - » All images associated with the abusive incident. These images often do not meet criminal law definitions but are still part of the continuum of abuse.
  - » Nude or partially nude images of children that have been made publicly available (typically stolen from unsecured social media accounts or secretly taken images), AND are used in a sexualized context or connected to sexual commentary.
  - » Images/videos of children being physically abused, tortured, or restrained.
- Industry acting on removal notices without subjectivity or unevenness when notified by a trusted/verified hotline, which includes internet providers denying services to those negligent or complicit in the online availability of child sexual abuse images.
- Government taking leadership and providing laws that put the interest of children at the center of this discussion.
- Society demanding change.





This framework is an urgent call to adopt criteria for removing images/videos that focuses on what is in the best interest of the victimized child. In the next year the Canadian Centre will be looking at an industry report card in regards to industry's response to removal requests.

## NEW YORK TIMES SERIES AND YOUR VOICE HAS THE POWER TO PROTECT SURVEY

In early 2019, *New York Times* writers Michael Keller and Gabriel Dance reached out to the Canadian Centre to learn more about how organizations are approaching issues around CSAM online. Over the course of several months they learned about the work of the Canadian Centre before releasing four powerful articles in a series titled, *Exploited*, which underscored the prevalence of CSAM online and industry's lack of response.



The publication, which boasts an audience of 130 million monthly readers, heavily referenced the Canadian Centre, Cybertip.ca, and Project Arachnid.

With the spotlight shining directly on their failing to protect children, some industry members started responding more quickly to notices and reduced pushback. Interest in and usage of Shield by Project Arachnid®, our industry API, also increased among some within industry.



The *New York Times* series amplified survivors' voices, who bravely were willing to share their own experiences and pain in order to underscore how industry and government has failed to adequately protect children.

## *Your Voice has the Power to Protect Survey*

On the heels of the *New York Times*' second article in November, the Canadian Centre launched the short survey, *Your Voice has the Power to Protect*, asking the public to weigh in on the responsibility industry bears in the removal of child sexual abuse images online. In just over three months, **10,500+** respondents overwhelmingly indicated that technology companies must be held accountable for failures to remove images/videos harming children, and government should pass laws that include penalties for non-compliance.

Notable results include:

**83%** felt a technology company who does not remove child sexual abuse imagery on its service should be criminally charged. Another **15%** felt companies should be fined for failure to remove.

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**90%** felt governments should pass laws that require technology companies to meet safety standards that include penalties for non-compliance.

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**95%** felt that technology companies who are notified that stolen images of children are being reposted/shared in a sexual context on their services and platforms should be required by law to remove the stolen images.

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The full results of the *Your Voice has the Power to Protect* survey were released alongside a statement of support for the Five Country Ministerial's *Voluntary Principles to Counter Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse*.

*Further information about the Canadian Centre's participation in the White House roundtable where the voluntary principles were launched will be discussed in the Phoenix 11 portion of this document.*

# TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS ADDRESSING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL

## Project Arachnid



In early 2016, the Canadian Centre undertook the effort to create a global platform to reduce the availability of CSAM. Launched in 2017, the Project Arachnid platform was initially designed to crawl links on sites previously reported to Cybertip.ca that contained CSAM and detect where these images/videos were being made publicly available. Once CSAM was detected, a takedown notice was sent to the provider hosting the content requesting its removal.

Project Arachnid is continually evolving and adapting to enhance its capabilities to proactively detect CSAM. Processing tens of thousands of images per second, it is able to detect and address harmful content at a pace that far exceeds the capacity of traditional methods. Since its launch in 2017, Project Arachnid has detected over **15.6 million suspect images and sent over 5.5 million removal notices<sup>6</sup>** to content providers.

<sup>6</sup> As of March 31, 2020.

In 2019/20, Project Arachnid detected an average of 400,000 unique suspect images per month, adding up to almost 4.8 million unique images being detected.

The Project Arachnid platform has been significantly enriched by collaborating with child protection hotlines from around the world. Using a device called the Arachnid Orb, other international hotlines work collaboratively with analysts from the Canadian Centre to pool their collective expertise, reduce the duplication of assessment and ultimately increasing the number of notices that can be sent through Project Arachnid.

In 2019/20, Croatia's Centre for Missing and Exploited Children Croatia (CNZD), Australia's eSafety Commissioner and Finland's Protect Children (Suojellaan Lapsia) joined the growing team of analysts, which already included Canada, the U.S., Sweden, Colombia and Finland's Save the Children (Pelastakaa Lapset – Radda Barnen), to scale up the capacity and impact of Project Arachnid in identifying and removing CSAM from the internet.



In April 2019, the UK Government released their *Online Harms White Paper*, which mentioned Project Arachnid and touched on key points noted in the Canadian Centre's children's rights framework.





## Project Arachnid: Breaking the Cycle of Abuse

Along with fulfilling the reduction of CSAM pillar, Project Arachnid also touches on the second strategy cornerstone – supporting survivors. From now-adult survivors whose child sexual abuse was recorded and possibly distributed online, we know that dealing with the trauma from the creation of the CSAM impacts all aspects of their lives. We also know from survivors that coming to terms with the lack of control over the ongoing sharing of their abuse images and its public accessibility can be one of the most difficult aspects of the abuse to overcome. Project Arachnid provides survivors of this horrific crime with some relief in knowing the memorialization of their abuse is being curbed.

## Assisting Victims/Survivors

Throughout 2019/20, the Canadian Centre worked directly with victims who reported abusive and/or exploitative material to Cybertip.ca to assist in getting the material removed from the internet through Project Arachnid. The Canadian Centre also worked with a number of law enforcement agencies to get material removed related to newly identified victims from current investigations.

The Canadian Centre has also assisted survivors and their families in reducing the risk and overall impact of these crimes. In a number of cases over the last year, Canadian Centre staff has worked to get online accounts and material that presents a risk to the survivor and/or their family removed from the internet. This would include:

- The removal of social media accounts for offenders who have shared personal information about their victims, thereby putting them at risk.
- The removal of social media accounts for individuals who are harassing, threatening, and/or stalking survivors and/or their families.



In 2019/20, the Canadian Centre assisted in 10 situations that involved Manitobans through the actions outlined above. Additionally, there were four situations over the past year where the Canadian Centre made referrals to Manitoba Justice Victims Services and assisted one victim's family in making an application to the Manitoba Government's Compensation for Victims of Crime Program. The Canadian Centre also referred one victim to a lawyer who specializes in representing victims of child sexual abuse material and assisting them through court processes for restitution.

## ADVOCACY AND UNDERSTANDING THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF SURVIVORS

The Canadian Centre has been in the privileged position of hearing and learning from survivors whose child sexual abuse was recorded and may have been distributed online. The information gleaned from these survivors guides our advocacy efforts pertaining to the enhancement of supports available to this population.



Model in image and intended as illustrative.

## SURVIVOR ADVOCACY GROUPS

### *The Phoenix 11*



For over two years, the Canadian Centre has been working with the Phoenix 11, an incredible group of survivors who are speaking out to help the world understand the ongoing impacts of child sexual abuse online.

In 2019/20 the Canadian Centre stood alongside the Phoenix 11 as they truly moved from survivors to advocates who are giving past and current victims of CSAM a voice and a visible ally:

- In June, the Phoenix 11 with Canadian Centre Executive Director Lianna McDonald went to Washington to attend a meeting with NCMEC where they reviewed the group's tactical advocacy agenda, and how to progress it further.

- In July, the Phoenix 11 travelled to London with Lianna to attend two important meetings. The first was a full day with the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), which included a morning roundtable with key individuals from the UK Home Office, charities working with victims of child sexual abuse, and others working to fight CSAM. In the afternoon, Lianna presented to the NSPCC staff about Project Arachnid and our work with survivors while the Phoenix met with NSPCC staff to provide feedback on some of their programs under development.



They also met with the UK's Minister Victoria Atkins, who took time out of her schedule directly before the newly-appointed Prime Minister addressed Parliament for the first time, and members of the UK Home Office. At each event, all of the P11 shared statements about the impacts of their abuse, and called for specific changes in the way CSAM is addressed.

- In a historic meeting at the White House, the Phoenix 11 were invited to provide their testimony at a roundtable between the Five Country Ministerial, including Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, the Honourable Bill Blair, members of industry, including Google, Microsoft, Snap, Roblox, Twitter, and Facebook, as well as senior White House officials Joe Grogan, Kellyanne Conway, and Ivanka Trump



Each member of the Phoenix 11 were given time to share their story, and the impact it's had on their lives. Each implored industry to do more to protect the safety and rights of children online.

When the ministers were given time to speak, Minister James Brokenshire, Minister of State for Security at the UK Home Office, used a portion of his allotment to thank the Phoenix 11 for their bravery and advocacy, citing this unprecedented meeting was a direct outcome of their work.

Following the roundtable, the Five Eye Ministerial held a press conference to release their *Voluntary Principles to Counter Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse*. United States Attorney General William Barr started the presser by also thanking the Phoenix 11 for their courage and continuing call for change.

## Mothers of Child Sexual Abuse Material Survivors

To learn about the hardships families of survivors endure years after the hands-on abuse has ended, the Canadian Centre convened a group of mothers whose children's sexual abuse was recorded and distributed online. We learned that for moms there is an emotional continuum long after "the discovery" of the abuse that often includes loss of relationships, financial instability, and a constant worry about their child's safety, to name only a few examples.



Their insight is crucial to guiding the development of support resources for families who are often lost in knowing what to do and how to help their child. A series of three booklets in particular – *Understanding Child Sexual Abuse*, *Child Sexual Abuse: Picking up the Pieces*, and *Safeguarding Your Child* – are meant to assist families in navigating the recovery process. In 2019/20, over 3,300 print copies of these resources were distributed in Manitoba, while almost 170 PDF versions were downloaded from the Canadian Centre's website.

These resources spawned a new booklet aimed more at general public in order to understand the issue of child sexual abuse called, *Protecting Your Child*. Since its summer 2019 digital launch, more than 100 copies have been downloaded in Manitoba from the Canadian Centre's website.



## Male Survivors

The Canadian Centre is just beginning to learn about the experiences of male survivors, who face unique social stigmas that come along with male sexual abuse, thanks to a courageous group of men who are willing to share their stories.

In February 2020, six male CSAM survivors from Canada and the U.S. travelled to Chicago for the first-ever male survivors retreat. They were joined by facilitator Dr. Duncan Craig, victim lawyers James Marsh, Carol Hepburn and Debbie Bianco, Dr. Sharon Cooper, Lanae Holmes from NCMEC, and the Canadian Centre's Executive Director Lianna, General Counsel Monique, and Program Manager for Cybertip.ca Catherine Tabak.

This powerful first meeting is just the beginning of the Canadian Centre's work with these survivors.

## Facilitating the Recording and use of Victim and Community Impact Statements in Manitoba



Victim impact statements (VISs), provided for under Canada's *Criminal Code*, are an important way for survivors of sexual abuse to take control of their own narrative and effect change. The Canadian Centre is strongly committed to recording more VISs for survivors, and in some cases their family members, who are interested in ensuring that their voices are heard in legal proceedings and that the court, the offender and the public are made aware of the ongoing and substantial impact the crime has on the victim.

Community impact statements (CISs), also provided for under the *Criminal Code*, allow a community to describe to the court, the offender, and the public the harm or loss that a crime has caused to that community. The Canadian Centre has written a CIS on behalf of all identified and unidentified victims of CSAM (C3P CIS) and the Phoenix 11, in addition to their victim advocacy statement, has also written and recorded their own CIS (P11 CIS).



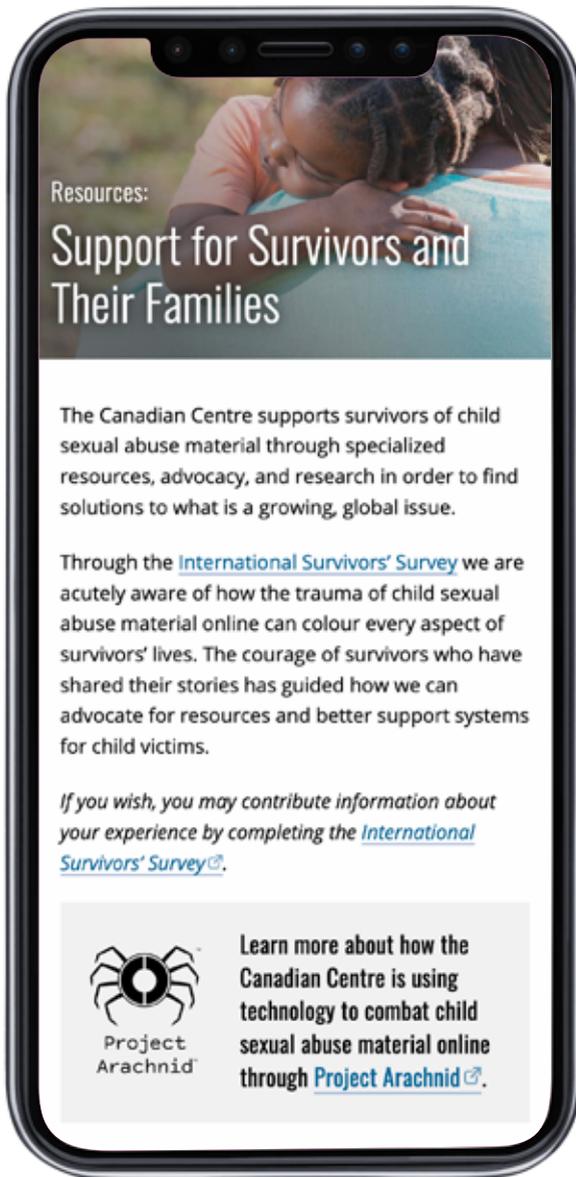
The Canadian Centre's legal team has seen a significant increase in requests for VISs/CISs from Crowns from across Canada, and in 2019/20 observed:

- The Canadian Centre's first filing of a CIS statement in an NCDII case, which happened to be in Manitoba, spoke to the harms associated with that particular crime. This statement will pave the way for future cases where the victim is reluctant to file a VIS.
- More multi-statement filings (i.e., more than one VIS, more than one CIS, or a combination of both in a single case), ensuring the court was hearing different victim/community perspectives and there was an enhanced victim/community voice in the sentencing.
- 20 cases featuring at least one CIS, or VIS, or both.
- Six new VISs were filed, however 14 VISs, which included previously recorded VISs, were filed in total in nine cases.
- The C3P CIS was filed for the first in a sentencing hearing involving an offender under the age of 18.



# MOVING FORWARD

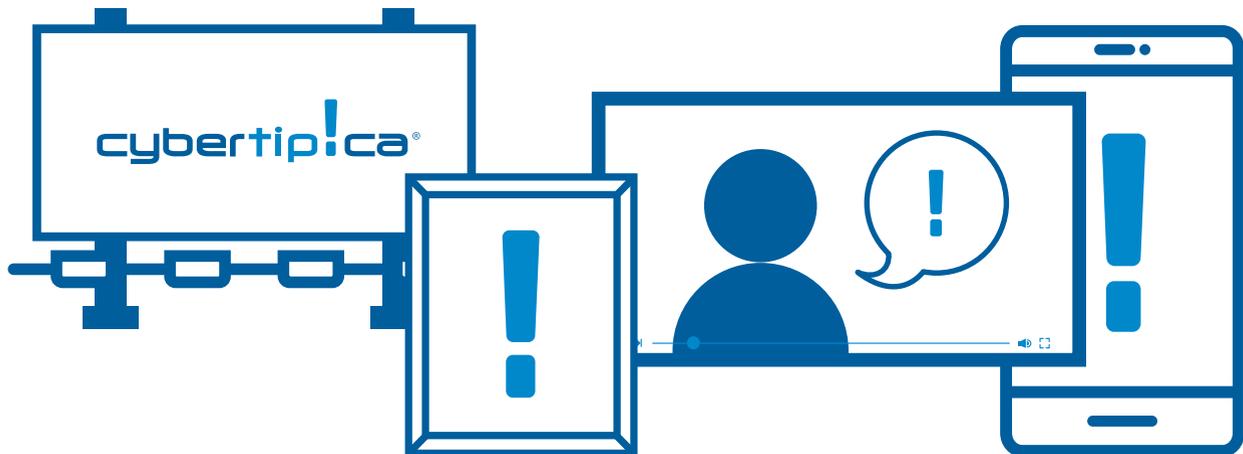
Since the inception of Manitoba's mandatory reporting of child pornography legislation, we have witnessed the ongoing importance of public awareness, education, and training. For the 2020/21 fiscal year, the Canadian Centre will actively pursue the following objectives:



## Continued Training and Provision of Resources for Child Welfare

The Canadian Centre will continue to offer training and resources for child welfare professionals as it relates to the issue of sexually exploited children. This includes:

- Our annual Missing and Exploited Children Training Conference (May 25-27, 2021).
- Presentations/information sessions at the request of child welfare agencies/authorities.
- Adding online training modules on the issue of child sexual abuse, including access to expert interview series.
- Assist victims who child welfare intersects with to help remove online material of their abuse/exploitation.
- ← Distributing education and intervention material to child welfare for the purpose of sharing with Survivors and Protective Parents (<https://protectchildren.ca/en/resources-research/support-for-families-of-survivors/>).
- Initiate regular follow-up with child welfare officials in relation to Cybertip.ca reports.
- Continuing to update the child welfare portal to increase efficiencies and maintain regular updates to child welfare contacts.

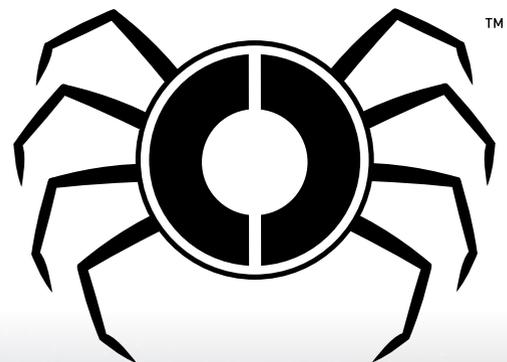


### Public Awareness Campaigns

In 2020/21, the Canadian Centre will execute a public awareness campaign in Manitoba focused on reporting concerns involving child sexual abuse. This campaign will involve ads showcased through mediums such as billboards, social media, print ads, and video ads.

### Leverage Technology to Address Child Sexual Abuse Images

We are committed to increasing the number of service providers engaged in using Shield by Project Arachnid — tools to interrupt the propagation of child sexual abuse material. The Canadian Centre is also committed to advocating for changes in how content providers currently respond to notices of child sexual abuse material hosted on their service. This includes expanding the type of harmful and abusive material service providers are notified about beyond criminal thresholds for child sexual abuse material, as well as holding them accountable for the removal of such material. It is evident that child sexual abuse imagery remains a growing threat to the safety and rights of children, and that the full spectrum of abusive and harmful images of children are not being addressed in existing approaches.



### Support Victims of Child Sexual Abuse Imagery

In 2020/21, the Canadian Centre plans to:

- Continue to work with law enforcement and child welfare to ensure information related to the imagery of identified victims is included in Project Arachnid for detection and removal.
- Enhance reporting mechanisms for victims/survivors who believe sexual abuse or exploitation material has been distributed online in order to assist in removal.
- Continue to make available the International Survivors' Survey for (now adult) individuals who were victims of child sexual abuse imagery.
- Continue work with survivor advocacy groups to strengthen the responses to online child sexual abuse and push for changes in how it is addressed.
- Continue to work with survivors in creating/updating VISs, and making them available to Crowns/Prosecutors in Manitoba and across Canada for use in court proceedings.
- Identify legal and financial remedies for victims who have had their child sexual abuse recorded and advocate for changes in legislation where necessary.
- Launch a survey for non-offending family members of victims of child sexual abuse imagery in order to provide them an opportunity to share their story and help shape recommendations for supports and resources for family members.





Model in image and intended as illustrative.



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