

## **Child Pornography Reports Triple Canada's National Tipline Releases First Quarter Statistics**

June 9, 2005 - WINNIPEG, Manitoba - Cybertip.ca today released startling results for its first quarter of operation as Canada's national tipline for reporting online child sexual exploitation which point to the widespread and alarming nature of the problem.

In the three months between its official launch on January 24 and April 30, 2005, Cybertip.ca received 1394 reports of child sexual exploitation on the Internet. This is up from 350 reports (a 298% increase) for the same number of days prior to launch when the tipline operated as a pilot project. Reports of child pornography alone have increased more than 328%, from 268 to 1148.

Since the national launch, over 600 reports received referenced material that was assessed as meeting the *Criminal Code* (Canada) definition for child sexual exploitation. These reports, whether national or international, were forwarded to law enforcement for investigation.

"Law enforcement will tell you this is the tip of the iceberg. When you consider what these numbers mean in terms of innocent child victims, many of whom are very young and who are being sexually victimized in often horrific ways, it is staggering and absolutely heartbreaking," said Lianna McDonald, Executive Director of Child Find Manitoba, the not-for-profit agency that operates Cybertip.ca.

"Keeping our children safe is everyone's responsibility and that is why the Government of Canada partnered with Cybertip.ca through the *National Strategy to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation on the Internet*," said the Honourable Anne McLellan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness. "These statistics demonstrate how Canadians can play a role in helping authorities to combat online child exploitation. I commend Cybertip.ca for its efforts to protect our children and look forward to a continued partnership."

"These new statistics clearly point to the ongoing importance of educating Canadians about illegal and offensive content on the Internet," said the Honourable David L. Emerson, Minister of Industry. "This is why we are proud to support Cybertip.ca, and why the Government of Canada has created educational portals such as Cyberwise.ca. We need to ensure the Internet is a safer place to be."

### **Statistics of Note (January 24, 2005 – April 30, 2005):**

*(The comparisons are for the same number of days (98) prior to the national launch when the tipline operated as a pilot project. For additional statistics go to:*

[http://www.cybertip.ca/en/cybertip/media\\_releases/](http://www.cybertip.ca/en/cybertip/media_releases/))

- 2.228 million hits to the website since launch compared to 871,000 before launch
- Total reports rose from 350 to 1394 (298% increase)
- Reports of child pornography increased from 268 to 1148 (328% increase)
- Reports of luring (children enticed to meet a stranger) rose from 30 to 67
- Reports from British Columbia increased from 21 to 114 (442% increase)

- Reports from Ontario increased from 69 to 191 (176% increase)
- Reports from Nova Scotia increased from 3 to 17 (467% increase)
- Top four reporting provinces: Ontario, British Columbia, Quebec and Alberta
- Requests for education and information increased from 51 to 149 (192% increase)

Ms. McDonald indicated that Cybertip.ca, and the public awareness campaign on child pornography that was initiated during the tipline's launch, have obviously resonated with the public.

“Canadians have responded to our call to action. When people are encountering child pornography online they are reporting it. Clearly Canadians want to help eradicate the sexual victimization of children on the Internet, and I applaud them for this,” she said.

Started as a pilot project in Manitoba in September 2002, Cybertip.ca was officially launched on January 24, 2005 as Canada's tipline for reporting Internet child sexual exploitation.

Cybertip.ca was created in partnership with the private and public sectors and law enforcement to combat the online victimization of children. In May 2004, the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness announced a 5-year funding agreement to support Cybertip.ca. In July 2004, Bell Canada announced a major 3-year contribution agreement to help secure ongoing success and financial security for the program. In addition, a number of industry partners provided considerable financial support to Cybertip.ca, including Microsoft, Telus, Shaw and Rogers.

People are urged to report child pornography online at [www.cybertip.ca](http://www.cybertip.ca) or by calling toll free 1-866-658-9022.

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