

## Online Child Sexual Abuse Tips Top 5,700 in First Year Cybertip.ca Credits Canadians for Taking Action

February 23, 2006, Winnipeg - At the end of the day on January 23, 2006, Cybertip.ca marked its first year as Canada's official tipline by logging its 5,771<sup>st</sup> report of potential online child sexual abuse, and Executive Director Lianna McDonald is focused on the power of one.

"Each of those 5,771 reports represents a member of the public who has taken a few minutes to report a potential case of online child sexual abuse. One Canadian, one report that saves an abused child. That's the power of one," Ms. McDonald stated.

Ms. McDonald noted that the sobering statistics clearly indicate that Canadians are taking action against online child pornography and are investing the less than 5 minutes it takes to file a report with [www.Cybertip.ca](http://www.Cybertip.ca) to help protect children. Cybertip.ca's specially trained analysts follow up on every report and forward to law enforcement across the country to identify abusers and the children they are abusing to stop the abuse.

"To all Canadians who have submitted reports, some of which have been directly responsible for saving a child from further sexual abuse, our heartfelt thanks for helping to make a profound difference in the life of an abused child," said Ms. McDonald.

Cybertip.ca was officially launched with support from the Government of Canada on January 24, 2005 as Canada's national tipline for reporting child sexual exploitation encountered online. Since then, 7,013 reports have been fielded from across Canada and around the world, a 430% increase over the year previous when the tipline operated as a pilot project. More than 1,200 requests for information have been received which McDonald attributes to their efforts to raise public awareness and Canadians' growing demand for information to help keep their families safe on line.

"I commend the work of Cybertip.ca for helping to make Canada a safer place for our children," said the Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety. "I would also like to thank the thousands of Canadians who took the time to report cases of potential abuse as well as law enforcement and other partners who worked so hard to investigate these reports and bring those responsible to justice."

"The Government of Canada has been a strong supporter of Cybertip.ca both as a Manitoba pilot and now as a national tip line," said Justice Minister Vic Toews, Q.C. "Since its launch in September 2002, Cybertip.ca has demonstrated its importance by encouraging the reporting of online child sexual exploitation and providing support and referral services to assist in protecting children from online predators."

Since the service started as a provincially-based pilot project in 2002, 9,145 public reports have been received by Cybertip.ca resulting in 17 arrests and 972 web sites shut down.

Cybertip.ca was created in partnership with the private and public sectors and law enforcement to combat the online victimization of children. Cybertip.ca receives financial support from the Government of Canada and Bell Canada as well as Microsoft, TELUS, Shaw and Rogers.

“Bell Canada's partnership with Cybertip.ca has allowed it to expand into a national program to fight the proliferation of online child abuse,” said Charlotte Burke, Senior Vice President of Consumer Internet Services at Bell Canada. "At Bell we recognize the importance of being active in the effort to promote the responsible use of the Internet by investing in initiatives to promote online safety."

**The Year in Tips** *(complete statistics are available at [www.cybertip.ca/en/cybertip/media\\_releases/](http://www.cybertip.ca/en/cybertip/media_releases/))*

Total	7,013
Child Sexual Exploitation Reports	5,771
Education Requests	1,242
Reports Forwarded to Law Enforcement	2,258

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.

-30-

For more information contact:

Kelly Bunzeluk  
(204) 945-1757

Patrick Bergeron, Conseiller en Communication  
(204) 945-5735