

**Improving Teamwork:
Canada's Response to Internet-Facilitated Child Sexual Exploitation**

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The welfare and healthy development of children and youth is an area of great importance to many Canadians. A key component of this focus is protection, with an emphasis on reducing child and youth victimization. The Internet has altered the way child sexual exploitation offences (for example, child abuse images, child luring, and child sex tourism) are committed, investigated, and prosecuted. This medium provides ready access to large quantities of electronically produced child abuse images and videos, provides chat rooms and bulletin boards that operate as virtual meeting places for those who engage in the sexual exploitation of children, and facilitates the luring of children and youth for sexual purposes. These aspects have significant effects on our response strategies to Internet-facilitated child sexual exploitation.

This workshop will provide a comprehensive overview of Canada's law enforcement response to Internet-facilitated child sexual exploitation. Topics discussed will include:

- the National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre: Canada's national law enforcement response centre for Internet-facilitated child sexual exploitation
- Recent Research: spanning offenders, offences, and victims of Internet-facilitated child sexual exploitation
- Current Training Programs: national and international training program review and assessment
- International Initiatives: discussion of the Virtual Global Taskforce and the International Youth Advisory Congress
- Prevention and Awareness Efforts

Participants will learn about the current situation in Canada from key members of the National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre, created by the federal government as part of Canada national strategy to protect children on the Internet. The importance of collaboration across police, academic, victim advocates, medical, and child protection agencies is the underlying theme of this workshop. The need for global responses and the success of such thus far will also be incorporated. The workshop will challenge participants to work collaboratively with outside agencies to advance effective response strategies to Internet-facilitated child sexual exploitation.