

You Can Be Lured or Targeted

- Sharing personal information online can let unwanted strangers into your life
- “Trolls” look for people to exploit online and use what you share to connect with you
- Harmful material can be widely and quickly shared with many people
- Rumours and images can be posted publicly or sent to several people or groups at once.

Deal with Cyberbullying Right Away

- File a complaint with the website, Internet service provider (ISP), or the cell phone company
- Tell cyber bullies to stop the harassment and remove offensive material
- Ignore or block the communications
- Send a hard copy of the material to the bully’s parents. Get their help to stop the behaviour
- Get help from the school psychologist / counselor and principal
- If you have safety concerns, call the police

What Can Parents Do?

- Share rules for responsible online behaviour; set consequences for breaking the rules
- Keep home computers in visible places
- Talk with children; review their online activity
- Help kids understand that cyber bullying is harmful and unacceptable
- Install parental control software programs
- Establish a parent–youth Internet use contract
- Encourage anti-bullying laws and Internet safety policies at provincial and local levels

Friendship Centres in Ontario

Friendship Centres are community spaces that provide culturally appropriate activities, programs and services for Indigenous people of all ages.

Contact or visit your local Friendship Centre:

- Sign up for a program or activity
- Seek support
- Find out what’s happening in your community
- Volunteer

For more information on this campaign, go to OFIFC.org or Kanawayhitowin.ca

1-800-772-9291



OFIFC

Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres

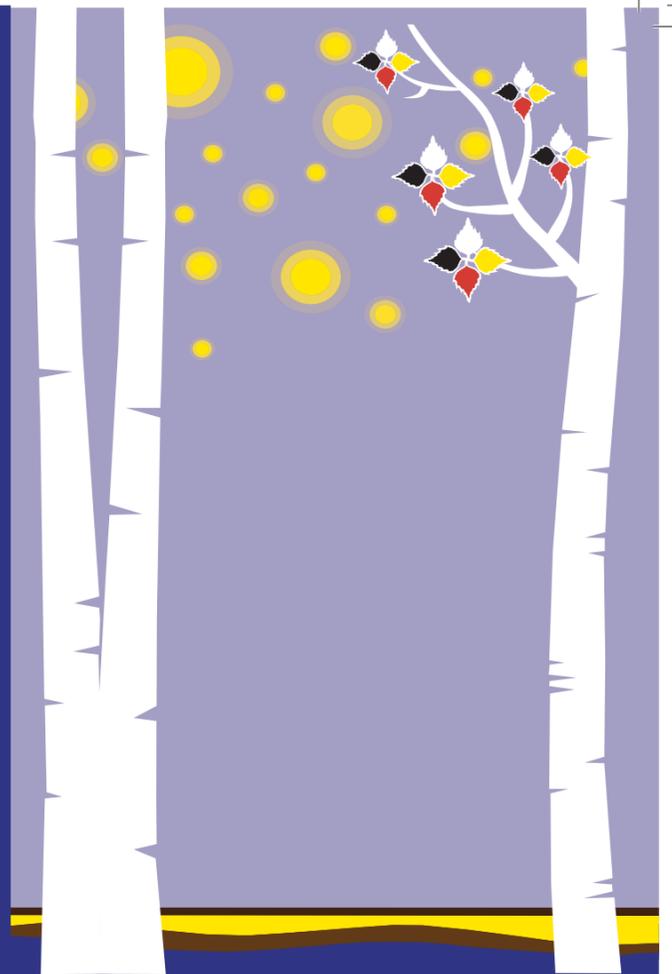


This Project has received financial support from the Government of Ontario, Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy.

Funded by:



Through the Ontario Women’s Directorate



**Behind
the
Screen**

Safety in Cyberspace

Honour Life,
End Violence

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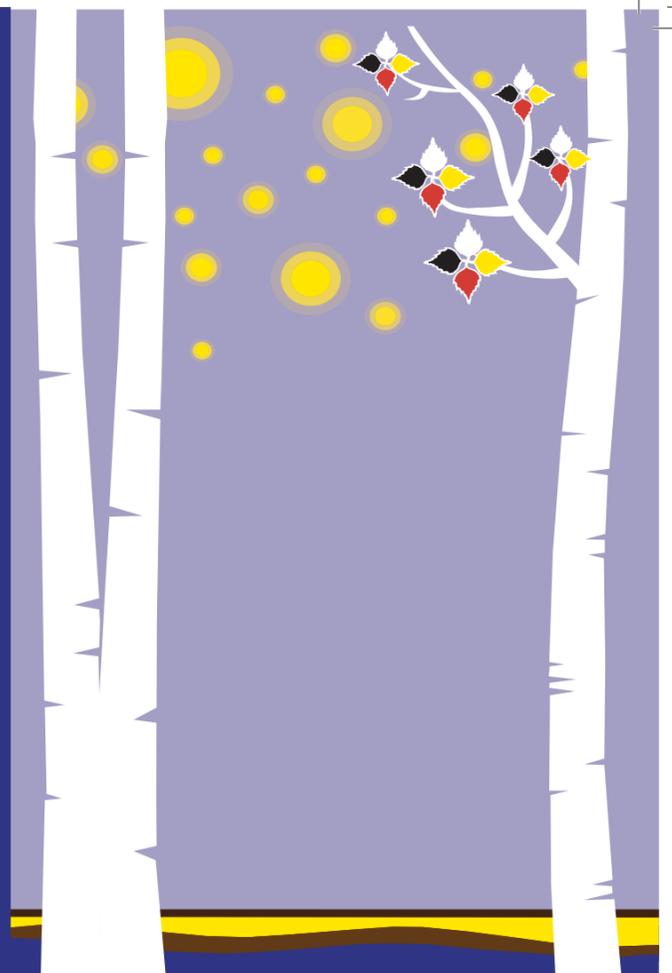


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See, Know and Act

Creating Positive Connections

There are disruptions that have led to a breakdown in relationships and our sense of responsibility for others, even when we use technology. Life teachings apply both in the physical and technological world. In cyberspace it is easier than ever to forget that our behaviours can have physical, mental, emotional and spiritual impacts on others that we cannot always see or feel. Cyber bullies can be harsher online and in text messages because they are not in the same physical space as their victim.

It is important to encourage our communities to be mindful of their contributions to the wellbeing and safety of one another. This mindfulness needs to include technology like email, cell phones and the Internet. Many teachings help address how to fulfil these social expectations; our stories, clan systems, feast orders, thanksgiving address, and much more. All show our close connection with the world around us.

We all have Responsibilities.

What is Cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying happens when we act in cyberspace as if we have no responsibility for the wellbeing of others.

Cyberbullying includes:

- Sending abusive texts/ emails through Instant Messaging (IM), Black Berry Messaging (BBM), Tweets (on Twitter), or Social Networking Sites (Facebook, MySpace, etc.)
- Taking and sharing unflattering or private images, such as naked or sexual images (Flaming)
- Recorded assaults posted to cyberspace (Happy Slapping)
- Posting unkind or inappropriate images on social networking sites
- Harassment (cyber stalking, on-line or IM threats, creating a Bash Board)
- Excluding people from online chats or other communication
- Deliberately posting false information to entice others to contribute to the discussion (Trolling)
- Assuming the identity of the victim online and representing them negatively to damage their relationships

Children & Youth in Cyberspace

Young people are big users of new technologies. For some, cyberspace may be one of the most important places -and even the only place- to socialize. However, children and youth are vulnerable because they may not be able to source credible information. They may also be unfamiliar with how to safeguard their identity and private information, which can lead to them being preyed upon and exploited by cyberbullies.

Children Need to Be Safe While Learning the Truth

Children need to learn how to use tools that are in their world, like the Internet. Parents and caregivers can provide guidance when teaching children to use the Internet and technology responsibly. Children will make mistakes, and it's up to parents and caregivers to build positive relationships with them, to learn about trust and safety. Be near and available to help them learn how to use technology responsibly.

Youth Need to Be Safe While Challenging Truth

Youth need to be informed about activity behind the screen to prevent them from victimizing others or becoming a victim. Parents and caregivers have a responsibility to accept youth challenges while being aware of cyberbullying behaviours. Beware of warning signs that may indicate a child or youth is being bullied, such as reluctance to use the computer or go to school, or behaviour and mood changes.

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