



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council**



**Communications Chair**

**Communiqué 7**

**DATE:** January 25, 2021

TO: Diocesan Chairpersons of Communications  
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)  
CC: National Chairperson of Communications (for information)  
FROM: Janet MacPhee, Provincial Chairperson of Communications

The government is back in session and we need to continue our campaign regarding access to on-line pornography sites. MP Arnold Viersen is working closely with Senator Miville-Dechéne on protecting young persons from exposure to Pornography Act. Following is updated information from Mr. Viersen:

**From Arnold Viersen, MP for Peace River-Westlock:**

**Two Weeks Left Support Online Child Protection Petition**

The e-petition launched to support Senator Miville-Dechéne's *Protecting Young Persons from Exposure to Pornography Act* will close on February 4 (see Communiqué#6 <http://www.cwl.ab.ca/Commcomm6-20201106.pdf>). At the moment, it has almost 1900 signatures and is number 11<sup>th</sup> in total signatures. I am sure we could significantly increase this support in the next two weeks. **If you haven't signed it yet, please do and ask your friends and family to as well.**

Sign here: <https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-2884>

After Feb 4, it will be certified, and I will let you know when I am able to table it in the House of Commons.

**MindGeek in Parliament**

Last December, MindGeek received long overdue attention for profiting off online sexual exploitation of women and children. Just over a week after our letter to the Justice Minister, the NYT published an expose that finally got the attention of media and the government.

As a result, at least one and possibly two Parliamentary Committees will be studying this. The Parliamentary Ethics Committee will be calling the owners of MindGeek to answer questions. It is expected this will take place near the end of February. APPG to End Modern Slavery co-chair & Bloc MP Andréanne Larouche has tabled a motion at the Status of Women Committee to also study MindGeek's actions.

**Lawsuit against MindGeek**

On December 29, an Ontario woman started a class-action lawsuit in Quebec against Pornhub's parent company MindGeek alleging it has profited off child sexual abuse material and non-consensual content. You can read more about it [here](#) or on the Siskind's law firm [website](#). Survivors & NGOS can contact Tassia at [TPoynter@sotosllp.com](mailto:TPoynter@sotosllp.com) for more information about this lawsuit.

The APPG (All-Party Parliamentary Group) co-chairs also sent out a new release in December, urging survivors of MindGeek to seek all forms of assistance and noting legal assistance options for English speaking survivors through [Defend Dignity](#) and for French speaking survivors through La Sortie - 514 923-7255.

<https://defenddignity.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2020-APPG-NR-canadian-victims-of-pornhub-les-victimes-canadiennes-de-pornhub.pdf>

**Arnold Viersen, MP**

Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group to End Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

**From Doreen Gowans, National Chair for Communications:**

**Pornography Hurts Campaign:** Visa, MasterCard and PayPal have decided to block the use of their services for purchases on the Pornhub website. This website portrays “child rapes, revenge pornography, spy cam videos of women showering... and footage of women being asphyxiated in plastic bags,” as reported on December 11, 2020, by Nicholas Kristof of *The New York Times* (see link below). Pornhub said it had more than 42 billion visits to its website last year.

Resolution [2017.02 Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornographic Websites](#) urges all members to write the federal government to enact laws requiring mandatory age verification mechanisms for adult pornographic websites. I ask that you strongly encourage your diocesan counterparts to urge members to write letters and send the Pornography Hurts Postcard to government officials at all levels to make their voices heard.

Please contact your Diocesan Communications chair for copies of the postcards or the Alberta Mackenzie Communications Chair for copies of the postcards.

**League Magazine:** This year, the League is trying something different by having its first online- only magazine for the fall issue. May I suggest asking your diocesan counterparts to encourage councils to print a copy and attach a distribution list for those members who do not have the technology to avail themselves of a copy online? As well, if members would prefer to view all issues online, they may opt-out of receiving a printed copy by advising their membership chairperson, and she will indicate that as she processes the membership for 2021.

Related matters:

SENATE OF CANADA

**BILL S-203 An Act to restrict young persons' online access to sexually explicit material**

–  
<https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-2/bill/S-203/first-reading>

by Senator Julie Miville-Dechêne

**I'm Worth It Now (IWIN) is an initiative by the Catholic Women's League at St. Michael's** which seeks to assist human trafficking survivors by providing them with backpacks and raising awareness about this important topic.

<https://saintmichael.ca/iwininitiative/>

To prevent, disrupt and end sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. Not here. Not anywhere.  
#NotInMyCity

<https://notinmycity.ca/>

**NEW YORK TIMES Articles**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/04/opinion/sunday/pornhub-rape-trafficking.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/09/opinion/pornhub-news-child-abuse.html>