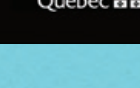




in collaboration with



The Service de police de la Ville de Gatineau (SPVG) has witnessed the emergence of a phenomenon that touches our teenagers: sexting. What is it?

Sexting consists of creating, transmitting or sharing pictures or videos that are sexual in nature via an electronic device such as a cellphone. Canadian statistics reveal that one out of three teens have already sent or received a sext message, and one out of five have shared it with another person.



Teenagers often turn to sexting to seduce or attract the attention of a particular person. However, they usually do not recognise that sexting is not a form of seduction but rather, is a form of child pornography for which there are severe consequences.

According to the Criminal Code, child pornography is defined as a picture or video of a person that is under the age of 18 and who is naked, partially naked or performing sexual acts. Sexting is a form of child pornography. The Criminal Code contains penalties for the production, distribution and possession of child pornography.

Although sexting and sharing intimate pictures are similar, the Criminal Code governs the non-consensual part of the act. The Criminal Code defines the offense as any sharing of intimate pictures that are non-consensual, regardless of the age of the person who commits the offense.

In 2017, the SPVG launched a multi-faceted prevention program, the following of which will affect your child:



VISUAL CONCEPT **1** **WEBSITE AND IMAGE BANK** **3**

On behalf of the #KEEPITPRIVATE program, we have developed a visual display, in which we play with the double entendre of sexual expressions that today's teens use in order to give lightness to the subject. Your child will be exposed to this program through various tools (posters, documents, image bank, etc.).

WORKSHOPS FOR SECONDARY 1 STUDENTS **2** **VIDEO** **4**

The SPVG will meet with secondary one students. In collaboration with CALAS and the DPCP, social and legal themes on sexting will be discussed during these meetings.

A video will be launched in summer 2017, the purpose of which is to allow the conversation on this matter to continue and to remind our teens during their summer break of the resources that are at their disposal.

#KEEPITPRIVATE gives you the opportunity to have an honest and open discussion with your children. Talk to them about this campaign; ask them about their thoughts and what they would do if they were asked to send or receive intimate pictures. Take the time to explain the consequences of such acts so that they understand the long-term effects of creating and sharing illicit material. Remind them that once a picture has been sent, they no longer have control over it, nor will they be able to delete it.



HERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS RELATED TO SEXTING:

What do I do if my child tells me that he/she has already sent a sext message to one or more people?

First and foremost, it is important to understand the act, as opposed to immediately condemning him/her for it. Sit down with your child to discuss the reasons why he/she sent a sext message. You can then follow up with the explanations of the dangers related to sexting that he/she might not be aware of.

We would then invite you to communicate with the police department or visit the cybertip.ca website for additional support.

Is it possible to delete a picture of my child that is sexual in nature and that is already circulating on the web?

Unfortunately the answer is no. There is no way to permanently delete a picture that is on the Internet. Even if they try to convince you that the picture has been deleted, malicious people could have taken and saved a screen shot of the picture.

There are ways to minimize the impacts by contacting needhelpnow.ca. This website will provide support and walk you through the different steps to follow.

Do you need help? The police department is always there! You can contact the **SPVG** if you have concerns or wish to report pictures of minors that are in circulation. For more information visit www.gatineau.ca/police.



OTHER RESOURCES ARE AT YOUR DISPOSABLE. DO NOT HESITATE TO CONSULT:

Cybertip.ca

Cybertip.ca is a Canadian service used for reporting the online sexual exploitation of children.

Canadian Center for Child Protection

Canadian Center for Child Protection is a charity dedicated to the personal safety of children.

Needhelpnow.ca

Needhelpnow.ca helps teens stop the spread of sexual pictures or videos and provides support along the way.

Crime Victims Assistance Centre (CVAC)

Crime Victims Assistance Centre (CVAC) provides free and confidential front-line services to all victims or witnesses of a criminal act, as well as to their families.