

# **Press Release - KINSA Supports a "Safer Internet Day"**

## **December 19, 2006**

December 19, 2006 – Toronto – KINSA – the Kids' Internet Safety Alliance applauded the resolution by MPP Bob Runciman put forward in the Ontario Legislature today calling for the declaration of February 7th, 2007 "Safer Internet Day" in Ontario.

Should the Ontario Legislature adopt this motion, Ontario will join 37 other countries and over 100 not-for-profit organizations from around the world who have dedicated this day to raising awareness of the dangers kids face on the Internet.

"On behalf of my colleagues at KINSA and the dedicated professionals who are working every day to keep the Internet safe, I want to say 'thank you' to Mr. Runciman and all the other Ontario legislators who are today debating this resolution," said Paul Gillespie, Vice Chair of KINSA. "This is a symbolic statement, but an important one."

Interpol estimates that there are approximately 560,000 images of children being sexually abused to be found on the Internet. These images represent between 10,000 and 20,000 individual victims, but fewer than 500 have been identified or rescued.

According to an Industry Canada survey, 50% of children between the ages of 9 and 16 years old have an email address or account that their parents don't know about. 56% use chat rooms. 33% go into adult chat rooms. 25% say someone they've only met on the Internet has asked to meet them in person, and 4% went on to meet their Internet friend.

Only half of these took someone with them.

"This is hardly a festive message in keeping with the celebrations of this holiday season, but it is an important message and one that needs to get out. As parents are buying computers for their kids this season, we want to remind them that they should take all precautions to keep their children safe on-line," said Gillespie. "Parents can go to [www.kinsa.net](http://www.kinsa.net) to find some tips and good advice on keeping their kids safe."

"The Internet is a wonderful place for kids to learn, socialize and explore – and KINSA does not want to leave the impression that this should be limited. What KINSA is dedicated to, however, is raising awareness that the anonymity of the Internet has provided a forum for pedophiles to find each other and to lure kids," said Gillespie. "A little sunshine in these dark corners of the Internet will be a great disinfectant."

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