

The Safe OnLine Outreach Society



Annual Report 2007-2008

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Our Vision, Mission and Values

Our Vision

SOLOS vision is to eradicate the online exploitation of children and youth.

Our Mission

SOLOS' mission is to increase the capacity of youth, parents and professional to effectively respond to online exploitation, whether sexual, emotional or societal, through non-punitive, educational based approaches.

Our Values

- We will move beyond condemnation and punishment and strive to understand the causes and the consequences - personal, relational, and societal - of online exploitation in ways that create community understanding, accountability, healing, and justice.
- We will act in ways that promote participation, honesty, humility, interconnectedness, accountability, collaboration, empowerment, holistic responses and hope.
- We will embrace non-punitive, education-focused approaches to the challenges posed by the intersection of the Internet, youth and sexual exploitation.
- We will consider all players in online sexual exploitation regardless of their role, non-judgmentally considering the implications and effects of the web on sexuality for society.
- We will adhere to the values and principles set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.



Billboard in Morristown

This is part of an awareness campaign about the women who have gone missing on Hwy. 16 in northern B.C.

SOLOS Programs – 2007-2008



SOLOS Programs are funded by a variety of generous sources and cover a variety of activities. We currently offer two Programs and a Project.

- Presentations Program
- Publications Program
- Community Expert Training Pilot Project



Presentations Program

Description

The SOLOS Presentations Program is delivered to youth and to parent/public/community and professional groups. Host agencies contact SOLOS and arrange for a presentation for their agency. Schools request presentations that either address online sexual exploitation, cyberbullying or online safety



Trafalgar Jr. High School, Nelson, B.C. on a frosty October morning.

- Schools also access the program for their teachers who are provided with similar and supplemental information.
- Parent Advisory Committees (PACs) often hold a presentation at the same time as the youth in the school receive a presentation. This encourages youth/parent dialogue about online activities.
- Community service, First Nations and other youth serving organizations request presentations for their youth workers, counseling staff and/or foster parents to educate them about online dangers and opportunities.

Presentations Program 2007/08

Overall during the 2007/08 year, we delivered one hundred and thirty-eight (138) presentations to 17,671 participants in fifty-five (55) different British Columbia communities. While we are primarily delivering presentations in the Greater Vancouver and Lower Mainland areas, we also delivered presentations to B.C.'s northern most (Atlin), and easternmost (Sparwood) towns.



Funder	#of Presentations	# of Unique Communities	# of Participants
2007/08 TOTALS	138	55	17671
2006/07 TOTALS	109	26	10138

We've presented on the Yellowhead Highway (through Barrier and Vavenby), driven the Highway of Tears (Hwy.16) and flown to Whitehorse in the last year.



Other Program Funding

ADM Presentations (2006/08)

These Presentations, funded by the Assistant Deputy Ministers' Committee on Prostitution and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth, are delivered specifically to communities who have received Community Capacity Building Project Funding. These geographically diverse 20 communities range from Nelson to Port Alberni and Prince George to Victoria. SOLOS received a grant to deliver two internet safety presentations to each of these communities in March of 2005 (one youth and one a parent/public). Presentations also include



handouts from our Publications Program.



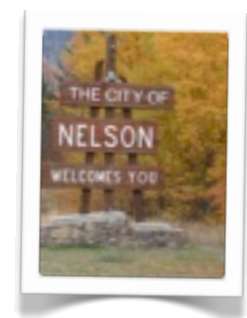
- During our 2005/06 year we delivered 2.5 presentations.
- During our 2006/07 year we delivered 23 of these presentations to over 1500 participants.
- In our 2007/08 year we delivered the remaining 14 presentations.

This grant is now complete. (See appendix B)

MPSSG (2008/09)

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General provided a grant specifically to target four remote, isolate, rural and First Nations communities. We visited two during our 2007- 2008 year. We presented to youth and parents in Atlin and Nelson. (See Appendix B)

The remaining two communities, Prince Rupert and Chetwynd will be part of the activities in the upcoming 2008/09 year. (See appendix B)



MCFD Presentations (2008/09)

SOLOS received funding from the Ministry of Child and Family Development (Provincial Youth Services) to deliver presentations to another 14 identified communities. Preparation for delivery of these presentations began in 2007/08 but will predominantly take place in the 2008 -2009 year.

Publications Programs

Description of Publications

The SOLOS Publication Program produces and distributes Internet safety information, organizational assessment tools and online resources on the topic of online safety, issues and strategies. This program provides free or low cost handouts, tools, CDs and information to communities and individuals on request.

These materials include:

- Youth Internet safety booklets
- Youth Internet safety CDs
- The “Introduction to Online Exploitation” manual for professionals
- Organizational Assessment, and Knowledge Assessment Tools for professional organizations
- The SOLOS Website - <http://www.safeonlineoutreach.com>
- SOLOS promotional material
- SOLOS Newsletter – distributed bi-yearly
- “Bridging the Gap – Recommendations for Addressing the High Risk Activities of B.C. Youth Online”
- Links to relevant resources to current media stories, relevant research and representing different opinion pieces many sectors.



Hardcopy Publications

Our Publication Program researches, produces and distributes publications. Some of these are distributed at our Presentations, following our events. These include youth booklets (“Teen Life OnLine”), youth CDs, (You, the Web & Sex”), brochures, newsletters and various other handouts. During 2007 – 2008 we distributed over almost ten thousand youth “Teenlife Online” booklets.

Youth Booklet “Teen Life Online”


Booklets are delivered at both Gaming and ADM/MPSSG presentations and are available on request (at cost) to members of the public.

During this year, we also distributed various handouts for specific groups (parents, teachers and youth workers) that were very well received. Plans for the coming year include formalizing some of these handouts into publications.



Electronic Publications

SOLOS Newsletters were published in February and September of 2008. We published a regular one first and then in September published with an online service. We will continue to refine our newsletters in our next year. This is our February Newsletter.



SOLOS Newsletter

An Update from the Safe OnLine Outreach Society

February 2008
www.safeonlineoutreach.com
Volume 1, Number 6

SOLOS Workshops: Educate, Empower and Inform

In 2006/2007 we have presented at:

- Kamloops
- Vancouver
- Mission
- Abbotsford
- Ladner
- Burnaby
- Langley
- Surrey
- Abbotsford
- Hope
- Sechelt
- Maple Ridge
- Penticton
- Westbank
- Victoria
- Nanaimo
- Chilliwack
- Pitt Meadows
- Tender Is.
- Nelson
- Cosquitam
- Chemanus
- Port Alberni
- Squamish
- Whistler

Remember to check our website often for updates on the latest research and trends in online youth culture

Greetings!

Well, we certainly have increased our reach this year! In 2006/2007 we expand the presentations we offer to include both the issues of sexual exploitation and cyberbullying on the internet. Thanks to support from our various funders and requests for presentations from all corners of the province we almost doubled the number of presentations we delivered (see below)! In addition, we published "Bridging the Gap: Best Practices and Policies to Address the Online High-Risk Activities of Youth in B.C.", (November 2007), hired two new presenters and continued with our Publications and Youth-2-youth Programs.

SOLOS Presentations; A Brief History

Since we started delivering presentations in 2003 the impact of online technologies on youth, schools and parenting have certainly escalated. Here a summary of how many presentations SOLOS has been able to deliver in British Columbia

Year	# Of Presentations	# Of Attendees
2002/2003	23	832
2003/2004	31	1416
2004/2005	32	2691
2005/2006	53	3175
2006/2007	103	10522

We continue to offer high quality, engaging presentations to youth (at elementary and high schools), parents (at Parent Advisory Committee sponsored events), professionals (at conferences and staff training events), and to the general public at open forums as well as through the media. Our information and resources promote awareness between youth and parents and enhance the ability of professionals to respond to the ever-increasing incidences of youth conflict involving the internet. Our human service perspective highlights critical thinking and research-based safety and education messages.

Bridging the Gap; Best Practices and Policies to Address the Online High Risk Activities of Youth in B.C.

Because of the speed of change online, approaches that deal with the diverse issues that arise when youth and technology meet need to be grounded in current research. Authoring this document allowed SOLOS staff the opportunity to take a concentrated look at education and prevention programs being implemented worldwide. This was a spectacular experience and we are very please with the document that resulted. We are very thankful to the B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General for their support to produce this document. It is available for download at: [xxxxx???????????](http://www.safeonlineoutreach.com/presentations.php)

Book your SOLOS Presentation Online!

As you can imagine, demand for these kinds of educational presentations and resources is very high. While we strive to accommodate all requests, and have expanded our staff to meet the increasing need for internet safety presentations, booking your presentations as early as possible is one way to ensure your school or organization can have one of SOLOS' dynamic, engaging and educational events this year. For a description of our presentations and honourarium amounts please go to: <http://www.safeonlineoutreach.com/presentations.php>

Our September Newsletter is viewable in Appendix C.

SOLOS Website

www.safeonlineoutreach.com



As an organization concerned about online issues, our website and online communication with community partners is very important. Here are the statistics on the SOLOS website.

One of the notable features of the website is our media coverage index. During out 2007/08 year, SOLOS staff posted several thousand links to relevant media stories, research

announcements and opinion

pieces. Sources include The Guardian (UK), Wired Magazine (US) and publications from the United Nations. Presenters consistently receive positive feedback from presentation attendees about the depth of information on the website.

The SOLOS Website is also instrumental in our day-to-day activities.

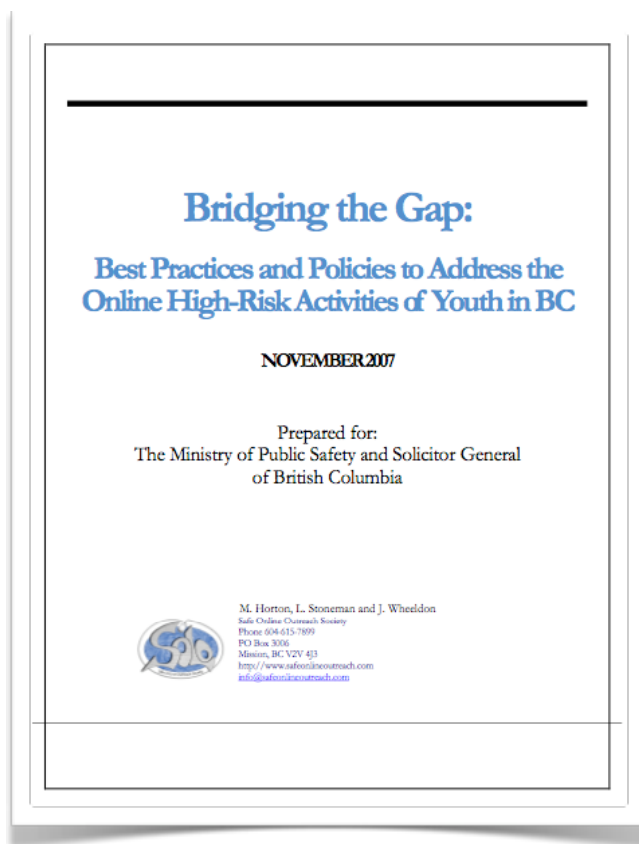
Bookings, invoices and statistical recording occur in our online database Workshop handouts and supplemental materials are distributed to presentations participants following our events

All of SOLOS other publications are available on the website for download by interested parties.



Bridging the Gap

In March of 2006, SOLOS received a \$10,000 grant from the B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to complete an environmental scan and to create recommendations for a made-in-B.C. strategy to respond to emerging issues of youth, technology and exploitation. The resulting document, “Bridging the Gap”, included a new topography of online sexual exploitation, identified relevant



policy consideration, and recommended responses for the Province to consider.

The document was delivered to the Government during our last fiscal year (2006 – 2007)

This year during May and June, SOLOS presented the document to three committee meetings in Victoria. (See appendix B)

Committee members included Assistant Deputy Ministers and senior policy analysts.

The document continues to be circulated, downloaded from our website and read by workshop participants across

the province.

Recommendations from the document include intensive trainings for youth serving professionals .

Gaming Publications

Materials for the Gaming Publication Program have been distributed at Gaming Presentation, as follows;

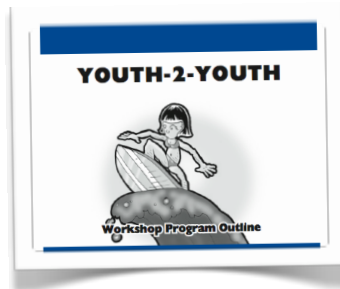
Youth Booklets	9944
CDs	1888
Newsletters	430
Website Visits	21,446
TOTAL	33,708



Youth-2-youth Program

Program Status

The Youth-2-youth Program had previously been funded by Gaming and supported by Mission High Schools. This is a very labour intensive Program and, due to lack of sustainable funding, cancelled.



Efforts in the 2008/09 year will be made to revive this Program.



Community Expert Training (CET)

Pilot Project 2007 – 2009

In January 2008, SOLOS staff began negotiations with several different government ministries regarding an opportunity to develop a two-day training curriculum that would go beyond the basic “Shock and Awe” presentation to a more in-depth training about youth and online environments and how to respond



professionally the issues that arise from the two.

In March of 2008, we received a grant to deliver the training in three (3) communities in B.C. – Nanaimo, Kamloops and Prince George. Social Workers, court personnel, Crown Counsel, school administrators and trustees, victim assistance workers, women support workers, sexual abuse counselors, ministry-based youth programs (youth

custody centre, youth probation, mental health assessment professionals) were targeted.

First CET Workshop - Oct. 2008, Kiwi Cove, Vancouver Island

The first CET Workshop was held October 17th, 18th and 19th south of Nanaimo in Kiwi Cove. Six participants representing the mental health, child protection and youth work fields. We were very fortunate to partner with the Bridges Research Society that is participating in the Pilot as external evaluators. For more detail on how that Workshop went please see appendix D.



Society Development

This year has been a year of stabilizing our staffing strategies, our financial practices and business plan.



Media Coverage

In addition to the newspaper coverage shown in the Appendix E, SOLOS ED, Merlyn Horton was interviewed by CTV television (March 10/08), CBC Radio North (March 11/08) and an interview on Nelson Co-op Radio (October 6/08).

Bookkeeping Practices

“The Paperchase” firm, Claire Glummes and Chrystal Coleman were instrumental this year in helping us to manage our finances. EPR, co-located with The Paperchase, is our accountant of record and has prepared our annual financial statements and tax return.



SOLOS Business Plan

As is to be expected in changing times, SOLOS business plan has been relatively fluid the past year. Plans in the last quarter include a rebranding of the SOLOS image to reflect a more professional and credible image with parents and professionals.

Funding and Award

Society Revenue Generated

In 2007-2008 SOLOS generated nearly \$60,000 in speaker revenue, up from \$27,000 in 2006-07, (\$14,500 in 2005-06). The success of our revenue generating capacity is expected to increase in the upcoming fiscal year as well.

Donations SOLOS received a generous donation from the Vancouver Police Department/ John Howard Society in April of 2008.



BCCPA

Crime Prevention and Community Safety

Individual Award

October 4, 2008; Merlyn Horton, SOLOS ED was awarded a Crime Prevention Award at the Solicitor General Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards Luncheon.

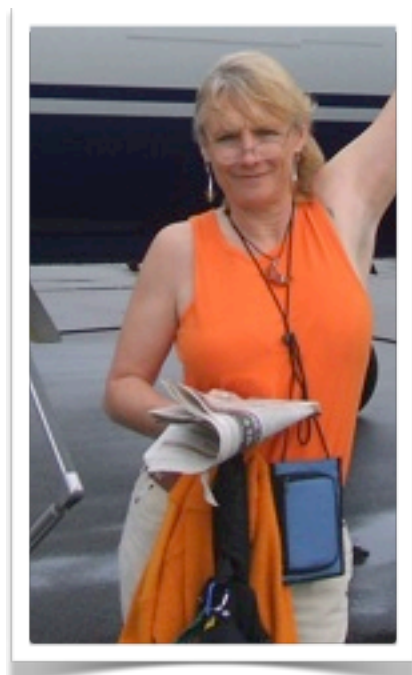


Byron Boucher, Superintendent of the RCMP 'E' Division,
Merlyn Horton, Executive Director of the Safe OnLine Outreach Society
and Honourable Wally Oppal.

SOLOS People

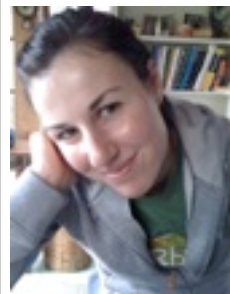
Merlyn Horton, (BA Comm.)

Executive Director (2002-Present) : SOLOS Founder, Merlyn Horton , is a youth advocate who has been working with high-risk, street entrenched and sexually exploited youth for over twenty years. Since the mainstream introduction of the Internet, Horton has been researching and investigating the incidences of sexual exploitation online. Her work regarding online sexual exploitation has been recognized internationally as uniquely youth-focused and child-rights based. As an aspiring geek and tireless youth advocate, Merlyn's presentations have been characterized as dynamic, enlightening and entertaining.



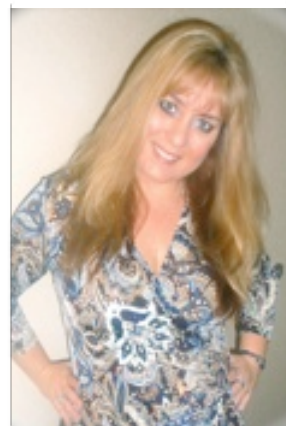
Lorinda Stoneman,

Programs Coordinator
Lorinda has been a part of SOLOS since 2006. She recently completed her Master of Arts degree at Simon Fraser University and produced her thesis, "Law, Limits and Lessons Unbound: Perspectives from Key Stakeholders Responding to Transnational Child Sex Tourism in a World Without Borders". She is now a PhD student at the University of Victoria where she intends to further pursue the issues of transnational child protection as well as the behaviors of young people in online environments and internet-facilitated child sex tourism.



Heather Mercer

Executive Office Manager
Heather has gained experience in a variety of settings including office management, property management, volunteer, special event planning and coordination. Heather is more than happy to answer any inquiries you have about SOLOS, presentation bookings and how to get involved.



More SOLOS Staff



Lisa Ackerman, (BA Psychology)
Youth and Parent Presentations Facilitator: Lisa is a vibrant youth worker who has gained experience in a variety of settings including camps, schools, community centres, and crisis care facilities. Lisa's strength based philosophies in working with youth provide them the opportunity to make healthy choices and stay safe by giving them accurate information and tools to succeed.

Dolphin Kasper
Youth Presentations Facilitator: Dolphin has been doing workshops in schools around the province for over ten years. He has experience working with a wide variety of programs and issues including: Violence, racism, homophobia, empowerment, self awareness, life-skills and many more. He has a love and passion for working with people and brings a strong sense of purpose to everything he does. Dolphin is excited about working with SOLOS and their amazing and extremely relevant programs.



Jordana Corenblum

Youth Presentation Facilitator:
Jordana has been working professionally with youth for over 10 years. Having worked in a multitude of programs and environments, Jordana's energy and passion make her very effective on the front line in both prevention and intervention. Through professional and personal experiences, she has learned that knowledge is our greatest tool in building self-confidence and decision-making skills. Jordana believes strongly that the sharing of information and experiences can only strengthen us as individuals and as a community. She is very excited to join the Safe OnLine Outreach Society team this year and looks forward to bringing her enthusiasm to many, many SOLOS youth presentations.



David Antrobus, Online Research: A former youth outreach worker with over 22 years of experience working with high-risk, street involved and sexually exploited youth,

David also is a published online author. He has extensive experience in online communities and actively searches out stories relevant to our audiences on a daily basis.

SOLOS Board Members

Fran Haughian, Chair

Fran has been involved with SOLOS one way or another since its inception and on the board for three years. As a community developer and advocate she brings to the board her organizing and networking skills. She may not twitter but she does understand possibilities, potential and the hazards that the internet may introduce to vulnerable or under informed people. An avid gardener, married, a mother of two grown children and a Jack Russell named Ruby she has an optimistic out look as long as people are informed and given the tools they need to navigate the World Wide Web.



Gary Van De Keere, Vice Chair

A quiet man by nature, Gary has been a SOLOS Board Member since 2005. He is a Supervisor of the Guardianship Team for the Ministry of Child and Family Development in Mission.

David Barratt, Secretary/Treasurer

David Barratt, Secretary/Treasurer, is Committed to enhancing the sustainability of community based non-profit societies, David Barratt volunteers and contributes his experience to assist with the effective stewardship of social, cultural and athletic organisations. He contributes professional attitudes and skills gained from experiences in military, education and public service career fields in order to assist with the governance of community based endeavours.



More Board Members



Louis Janze, Member at Large

Louis Janze, Member at Large, Louis Janze is a Certified Prosthetist with an established practice of 15 years in the Fraser Valley. He sits on a variety of National and Provincial Boards associated with the Prosthetic/Orthotic profession. He is married and the father of 3 teenagers, and believes in educating other parents and children about the appropriate and safe uses of online technology.

Gordon Ross, Member at Large

Gordon Ross career spans over 30 years as an award-winning Internet filtering pioneer, Biometric technology expert, Computer security professional, and tele-communications engineer. He is a firm believer that education, combined with effective technology solutions, proper training and education will ensure the Internet and the rest of digital world remains an open, safe, secure and helpful place for the global community.



Appendix

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Appendix E - Media

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