



# SOLOS Newsletter

An Update from the Safe OnLine Outreach Society

June 2003

Volume 1, Number 1

**SOLOS  
Workshops:  
Educate,  
Empower and  
Inform**

**2003**

**Presentations to:**

- COPINE Project Colloquium, Ireland.
- Safe Communities Regional Workshop on Youth Justice, Prince Rupert, Chilliwack, Burnaby, and Victoria.
- Provincial Interministerial Committee on Youth Violence and Crime
- Surrey STOP Best Practices Forum
- B.C. Aboriginal Advisory Committee to the RCMP
- Metro College
- Youth Summit (Prince Rupert)
- Delta Boys and Girls Club
- Youth Taking Action Forum in Maple Ridge

## **WELCOME**

to the first SOLOS Newsletter. As always, we're hoping to share information with others concerned about the safety of youth on the internet, and with youth service practitioners who are interested in embracing all the opportunities that cyberspace has to offer young people. If you have any comments, suggestions of questions, please feel free to contact us at

[info@safeonlineoutreach.org](mailto:info@safeonlineoutreach.org).



## **SOLOS Presentations 2003**

This year we have delivered presentations and workshops to groups within British Columbia and in Europe. (See sidebar). Overall we have presented to 644 people. The presentation content is consistently evolving to include emerging trends and perspectives on the online sexual exploitation of young people. These include a comparison between human services and law enforcement responses to online victimization; a discussion of community responses to pedophilia, and a look at how youth work is able to accommodate and adapt to the rapid changes in technology. A new focus for us this year has been to develop presentation content for youth audiences. These presentations are proving exciting and challenging. The youth content is values driven and focuses on encouraging young people to consciously manage their online activities and personas. Our presentations are constantly informed by young people's comments, suggestions and information and are child rights focused. Youth's use of instant messaging, email and chat rooms are discussed as are a discussion on ethical online behaviours.

## **Adult Presentation Summary**

The focus of SOLOS workshops are to educate parents and professionals about the risks to children and youth created by online exploitation. Parents, caregivers, teachers & program staff often feel children know more about using the Internet than they do. This workshop overviews sexual exploitation on the Internet. Topics include: web 101, online activities of Canadian youth, risks factors for online sexual exploitation, and online activities by adults with a sexual interest in children. The workshop will conclude with safety tips and questions from the participants.

## **News and Updates**

The SOLOS Curriculum "Introduction to Online Sexual Exploitation" is available as a .pdf file to groups in Canada interested in internet safety. Email SOLOS to receive a copy. ([info@safeonlineoutreach.org](mailto:info@safeonlineoutreach.org)).

*SOLOS promotes:  
critical thinking  
skills, media  
awareness, and  
education.*

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## **SOLOS Executive Director Earns Woman of the Year Honour**

Mission, B. C. – The Safe OnLine Outreach Society is happy to announce that Executive Director, Merlyn Horton, has been awarded the Myrtle Evertt, 2003 Outstanding Woman of the Year Award by the Business and Profession Women's Club of Abbotsford and Mission. The award was presented at a gala dinner on May 14<sup>th</sup> at Heritage Valley in Abbotsford. This Award recognizes Horton's contribution to youth work, community education and activism regarding the sexual exploitation of children and youth. The Myrtle Evertt Award is handed out by the Business and Profession Women's Club of Abbotsford and Mission each year to women who work towards the improvement of economic, employment and social conditions for women. The Club was established in 1987 and is part of the International Business and Professional Women's Club.

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## **Upcoming**

This summer, SOLOS Staff will be completing two information booklets for youth. "Life Online" will be a booklet examining the various aspects of online persona, communities and activities. "Online Sexual Exploitation" will provide specific information to youth about some of the dangers posed by strangers on the internet. These booklets will be available in late 2003.

SOLOS Executive Director, Merlyn Horton will be presenting a workshop at the upcoming BC Crime Prevention Association 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Symposium, September 25-27 in Kelowna, British Columbia. Contact the [BCCPA](http://BCCPA) for further details.

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## **SOLO Society**



In our first year, SOLOS Board of Directors has been working hard to establish our society, clarify our mandate, write our policy manual and develop long term goals. In the first year of the Society being established the Board has also registered the SOLOS as a non-profit society with federal charitable tax status.

We believe strongly that our child rights focused approach to online sexual exploitation is innovative and valuable. We need funding to continue to offer workshops and presentations to youth and professionals.

### **Want to help?**

- Make a donation to the SOLO Society
- Join the Society
- Book a SOLOS presentation for your group or organization
- Ask about volunteer opportunities!

Remember to check out the website for regular updates!

[www.safeonlineoutreach.org](http://www.safeonlineoutreach.org) or Email [info@safeonlineoutreach.org](mailto:info@safeonlineoutreach.org)