

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MISSION, B.C. – The Safe OnLine Outreach Project, (SOLO) is pleased to announce the launch of their website. (www.safeonlineoutreach.org) The site will offer information about sexual exploitation on the Internet and links to safety information for youth and adults.

The Safe OnLine Outreach Project (SOLO) is a Lower Mainland, British Columbia, Canada-based project that aims to reduce the sexual exploitation of children and youth in Internet environments through education and curricula development for youth serving professionals.

SOLO, is a project of PASA, Parents Against Sexual Abuse which is a non-profit organization comprised of a diverse group of individuals dedicated to sexual abuse prevention and support of victims and parents.

The Safe OnLine Outreach (SOLO) Project's mandate is to reduce the sexual exploitation and damage to youth who are targeted by predators in online environments such as instant messaging, and chatrooms. SOLO's goals are to educate youth serving professional such as police, social workers, teachers and crisis response workers about online exploitation, to educate policy makers about online risks for youth, and to collaborate with other concerned stakeholders about youth sexual exploitation and responsible Internet use in Canadian society.

The SOLO project is partially funded by the Vancouver Foundation, a non-governmental community foundation, founded in 1943 as a collection of funds that form a permanent endowment for charitable purposes. The Vancouver Foundation is Canada's largest community foundation. It administers over 760 endowed funds with total capital exceeding 560 million and distributes some \$30 million a year to community organizations across British Columbia.

Merlyn Horton, Project Coordinator for the Safe OnLine Outreach Project (SOLO) says, "We're very happy to have established a web presence for SOLO. The SOLO Project has the potential to make an innovative impact in the area of addressing online child and youth sexual exploitation, and the website is another tool towards this goal."

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