



*The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Edmonton Diocesan Council*



**November 13, 2020**

**TO:** All Parish Council Presidents  
All Diocesan Officers  
Life Members

**FROM:** Susan Casey, Diocesan Communications Chair

**SUBJECT: DIOCESAN COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR FALL COMMUNIQUE:**

My dear Sisters in the League,

Here we are, 8 months into the COVID-19 pandemic. I am sure many of you have been spending more time on your computers/tablets than you ever thought you would. I am sure many of your children and/or grandchildren are doing the same. Do you have safety protocols set up for them in order to limit their exposure to exploitive websites? By “exploitive”, I mean, pornographic. Did you know that children are being first exposed to porn at the age of 11 on average? They are not only they exposed on your home computers but on their smartphones and tablets as well. In Canada we have few studies, but according to the most recent survey 40% of boys in high school have seen porn online; 28% look for it at least once a day or once a week; and 7% of girls declare having watched porn.

Many parents are concerned about their children being exposed to these websites and are not sure how to limit this exposure. Pope Francis said he wanted each of u to remember that children look to adults, with light in their eyes and trust in their heart, to protect them.

“What are we doing to make sure they are not robbed of this light, to ensure that those eyes will not be darkened and corrupted by what they will find on the internet?”

There are some very good resources available to help you with this and with starting conversations with your children about this issue. One of them is called Parents Aware <http://parentsaware.info/>. This website was started by Marilyn Evans, an Ontario mother and contains a font of information that can be very helpful. If you are looking for information from a mental health perspective, try looking at the Connecting to Protect website <https://www.connectingtoprotect.org/about> which gives a public health response to address the mental health and safety consequences of children and young people accessing online pornography. This website was started by Dr. Jocelyn Monsma Selby from Calgary

On September 30, 2020, Senator **Julie Miville-Dechéne** introduced Bill S-203, *An Act to restrict young persons' online access to sexually explicit material* to the Senate where it went on to the

2<sup>nd</sup> reading on November 3, 2020 however debate was adjourned. Bill S-203 is also known as *Protecting Young Person from Exposure to Pornography Act*. This Bill is in keeping with the CWL Resolution [2017.02 Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornographic Websites](#) and, in my opinion, should be supported by all of us.

Now is the time to start your letter writing campaigns in support of this Resolution and of Bill S-203. Please write to your Senators and let our voices be heard.

I have included a sample letter that you can personalize to send on to the respective person(s) such as Alberta Senators.

Letters written to a Senator do not require postage.

To contact a Senator: <https://sencanada.ca/en/senators-list/>

Name of senator

The Senate of Canada

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

K1A 0A4

*“Father, we pray for more solutions to protect children and young people from accessing inappropriate and harmful online material. Please help the government to pass effective legislation and bless initiatives that provide education and advice to those affected.*

*Father, please help us to shield children and teenagers from explicit images, language and cultural influences that threaten to rob them of the innocence of childhood. Prompt us to pray more and to voice our concerns to the appropriate authority. Amen.”*

God Bless.