# **Motion M-47 – Briefing Kit**



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Arnold Viersen, MP Peace River - Westlock

### M-47 - Overview

#### Motion M-47

That the Standing Committee on Health be instructed to examine the public health effects of the ease of access and viewing of online violent and degrading sexually explicit material on children, women and men, recognizing and respecting the provincial and territorial jurisdictions in this regard, and that the said Committee report its findings to the House no later than July 2017.

#### **Quick Stats**

- Adult sites get more visitors each month than Netflix, Amazon and Twitter combined, with Pornhub alone receiving 21.2 billion visits in 2015.
- 35% of all internet downloads are sexually explicit.
- Globally, sexually explicit material is a \$97 billion industry.
- Average age of first exposure among boys is 12 years of age.
- Sexually explicit material has become a primary source of information about sex and a significant factor influencing sexual behaviors for children and adolescents.
- Parliament has not studied the impact of sexually explicit material since 1985 <u>before</u> the Internet was invented.

#### **Key Issues**

- Easily accessible violent and degrading sexually explicit material is both a **public health** issue and a women's equality issue.
- Child and adolescent exposure to violent sexually explicit material is a form of child abuse.
- **40 years of academic research** has revealed that exposure to violent sexually explicit material is harmful to physical and mental health of individuals, especially adolescents.
- Almost **90% of mainstream sexually explicit content** features violence towards women.
- Adolescents who viewed violent sexually explicit material were six times more likely to self-report engaging in sexually aggressive behaviour.
- Youth who regularly view online sexually explicit material are significantly more likely to hold negative gender attitudes.

Parliamentarians have a responsibility to develop policy that fosters the healthy development of youth, increases child protection online, and reduces violence against women and girls.

### M-47 – Supporting Organizations

- ✓ Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime
- ✓ Rehtaeh Parsons Society
- ✓ Hope for the Sold
- ✓ Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada
- ✓ Canadian Centre for Child Protection
- ✓ National Center on Sexual Exploitation
- ✓ Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness
- ✓ Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan
- ✓ London Abused Women's Centre
- ✓ Caribou Child & Youth Centre
- ✓ Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre
- ✓ Persons Against Non State Torture
- ✓ Little Warriors
- ✓ Moose Hide Campaign
- ✓ Canadian Coalition to Empower Women
- ✓ Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton (SACE)
- ✓ Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada
- ✓ Central Nova Women's Resource Centre
- ✓ [free-them]
- ✓ BridgeNorth
- ✓ Every Woman's Centre
- ✓ Pictou County Women's Resource & Sexual Assault Centre
- ✓ Strait Area Women's Place
- ✓ Tri-County Women's Centre
- ✓ Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation
- ✓ District of Highlands, BC

- ✓ Middlesex London Health Unit
- ✓ Ratanak International
- ✓ Joy Smith Foundation
- ✓ Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee
- ✓ Soroptimist International Club of Edmonton
- ✓ Crossroads Resource Centre and Women's Shelter
- ✓ Strength to Fight
- ✓ Child Pornography Hurts
- ✓ EVE (formerly Exploited Voices now Educating)
- ✓ Newfoundland and Labrador Feminists and Allies
- ✓ Rising Angels Awareness & Restorative Care
- ✓ Evangelical Fellowship of Canada
- ✓ Thrive CYN St. John's
- ✓ Defend Dignity
- ✓ Antigonish Women's Resource Centre & Sexual Assault Service Association
- ✓ Fortress Foundation
- ✓ LEA Place Women's Resource Centre
- ✓ Second Story Women's Centre
- ✓ ARPA Canada
- ✓ Signal Hill
- ✓ The Women's Place Resource Centre
- ✓ City of Colwood, BC
- ✓ CATHII
- ✓ City of Victoria, BC
- ✓ Colchester Sexual Assault Centre





























## M-47 – What do politicians say?



I think there's probably an awful lot of factors that come together to shape societal behaviour .... There's issues around pornography and its prevalence now and its accessibility, which is something I'm really wrapping my head around as a father of kids who are approaching their teen years. (September 20, 2015 - Up for Debate)

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau Prime Minister of Canada

Many in the House have worked for years, and I think about previous members of Parliament: Margaret Mitchell, Dawn Black, Audrey McLaughlin, Alexa McDonough, and the list goes on and on. These women have stood in this place to say that we as a society, as a Parliament, and as a country have an obligation to get to the roots of pornography and violence against women and children. The only way to do that is to recognize it for what it is, which is the exercise of power over others. (November 27, 2009 - Debate in HoC)

Judy Wasylycia-Leis
Former NDP MP for Winnipeg North





MP Viersen's motion is extremely important in that it opens up the very important conversation around the violence in online sexually explicit material and the impact it has on men, women and children. This issue is truly one of the top concerns for families all across our nation. Parliamentarians have a responsibility to protect our citizens through responsible legislation.

Joy Smith
Former CPC MP for Kildonan – St. Paul

# M-47 – What does the research say?

A 2016 study<sup>1</sup> of <u>over 4500 teenagers aged 14 to 17</u> published in **Journal of Interpersonal Violence** on sexually explicit material and sexual coercion and abuse found:

Boys' perpetration of sexual coercion and abuse was significantly associated with regular viewing of online pornography.

Negative gender attitudes among boys overlapped with regular use of online pornography, and we would argue that pornography is both underpinned by and perpetuates gender inequality.

... pornography's value as a tool for sex education is undermined by its sexism and misogyny, which have the potential to inform sexually coercive and abusive behavior in young men.

A 2016 meta-analysis<sup>2</sup> of <u>22 studies from 7 different countries</u> published in the **Journal of Communication** found:

Pornography consumption was associated with both verbal and physical sexual aggression, but the association was stronger for verbal sexual aggression. It is important to emphasize, however, that sexual harassment can be extremely damaging and verbal coercion to obtain sex, even without the threat of physical force, is still an act of sexual violence.

Meta-analyses have now found that pornography consumption affects nonsexual aggression and ASV [attitudes supportive of violence] in laboratory studies and is correlated with ASV and sexually aggressive behavior in naturalistic studies.

As with all behavior, sexual aggression is caused by a confluence of factors and many pornography consumers are not sexually aggressive. However, the accumulated data leave little doubt that, on the average, individuals who consume pornography more frequently are more likely to hold attitudes conducive to sexual aggression and engage in actual acts of sexual aggression than individuals who do not consume pornography or who consume pornography less frequently.

<sup>2</sup> Wright P. J., et al. (2016) A Meta-Analysis of Pornography Consumption and Actual Acts of Sexual Aggression in General Population Studies, Journal of Communication, 183-205.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Stanley, N., Barter, B., Wood, M., Aghtaie, N., Larkins, C., Nanua, A., Överlien, C. (2016) Pornography, Sexual Coercion and Abuse and Sexting in Young People's Intimate Relationships: A European Study, Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 1-26.

A 2012 meta-analysis<sup>3</sup> published in the **Journal of Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity** of <u>over 70</u> <u>academic studies</u> found:

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### On violent sexually explicit material

"...the risk of harm that is evident in the literature has led researchers to investigate adolescent exposure to online pornography in an effort to elucidate these relationships."

'... consistent findings have emerged linking adolescent use of pornography that depicts violence with increased degrees of sexually aggressive behavior.'

#### On mental health:

'The literature does indicate some correlation between adolescents' use of pornography and self-concept. Girls report feeling physically inferior to the women they view in pornographic material, while boys fear they may not be as virile or able to perform as the men in these media.'

'Adolescents also report that their use of pornography decreased as their selfconfidence and social development increase.'

'Additionally, research suggests that adolescents who use pornography, especially that found on the Internet, have lower degrees of social integration, increases in conduct problems, higher levels of delinquent behavior, higher incidence of depressive symptoms, and decreased emotional bonding with caregivers.'

A 2010 meta-analysis<sup>4</sup> of <u>over 40 academic studies</u> published in the **Journal of Aggressive Behaviour** on sexually explicit material and the impact on violence against women found:

'In contrast to the earlier meta-analysis, the current results showed an overall significant positive association between pornography use and attitudes supporting violence against women in nonexperimental studies. In addition, such attitudes were found to correlate significantly higher with the use of sexually violent pornography than with the use of nonviolent pornography, although the latter relationship was also found to be significant.'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Owens, E.W., Behun, R.J., Manning, J.C., & Reid, R.C. (2012). The impact of internet pornography on adolescents: A review of the research. Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity, 19, 99-122.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Hald, G.M., Malamuth, N.M., & Yuen, C. (2010) Pornography and attitudes supporting violence against women: Revisiting the relationship in nonexperimental studies, Aggressive Behavior, 36, 14-20.

### M-47 – Supportive Statements

We are concerned with the ease of viewing of violent and degrading sexually explicit material online in Canada. We believe viewing such material has a potentially harmful impact on the mental, emotional and sexual health of children, women and men. ...Canadian Parliament has not studied the effects of violent sexually explicit material since the 1985 Special Committee on Pornography and Prostitution and thus we support M-47; a motion that should have been introduced years ago.

Heidi Illingworth
Executive Director
Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime



I believe that if we are to change the attitudes and behaviors that contribute to violence against women we must start at one of the root causes. Easy access to messages and visuals online that condone violent pornographic templates for our youth is setting the stage for what is the "norm" when it comes to the treatment of females. If my daughter was treated as a human being and not an object to conquer she would still be here today. Societal messages directly influence rape and violence towards women.

Leah Parsons, B.A. MEd (Counselling) Executive Director Rehtaeh Parsons Society



Half of all Canadian women over the age of 16 will experience at least one incident of physical or sexual violence. One of the most prevalent contributing factors is the availability and accessibility of violent and degrading sexually explicit material online. If we want to end sexual violence against women and girls, we must take action now and Motion M-47 is an important opportunity to start this conversation.

Megan Walker
Executive Director
London Abused Women's Centre



"...with the issue of online violent sexualized content we have seen significant research that shows that generations now of young people and young boys specifically who are being exposed to explicit violent sexualized content that depicts the degradation and the dehumanization, objectification of women leads to increased violence.... As a mother and as the Native Women's Association we know how many times children accidentally stumble onto some of the most horrifying sexual violence on the internet when they are innocently typing in something. To see that kind of long-term shaping of attitudes towards women and girls, which are based, and shaping of attitudes towards sex and shaping of attitudes towards relationships that then become based on violence and we're seeing it more and more because of the violent content on the internet that increasingly higher numbers of young children are being exposed to." [Except from AANO Committee – April 12, 2016]

Ms. Dawn Lavell-Harvard
Past President
Native Women's Association of Canada

NATIVE WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
L'ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES
AUTOCHTONES DU CANADA

Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada supports this motion of M.P. Arnold Viersen presented to the House of Commons to instruct the Standing Committee on Health. It's time to talk about the sexual exploitation of our children and take steps to safeguard them. Canadian parents must not be held solely responsible to protect their children from harmful sexual imagery. Families deserve more than an outdated 1985 report. With the advent of the internet we need to understand what is happening now and take measures to protect the most vulnerable, our children.

Darlene Newton
President
Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada





We have dedicated the past 23 years of our professional nursing careers working to gain human and legal rights for individuals who have survived acts of torture victimization carried out in the domestic or private sphere by individuals and groups, including by parents, extended family members, human traffickers, pornographers, pimps and johns, and other like-minded individuals. Such victimization creates a very vulnerable population that fosters a multitude of grave concerns from public health to addressing human equality and legal rights. We support M-47 being adopted.

Jeanne Sarson, MEd, BScN, RN Linda MacDonald, MEd, BN, RN Persons Against Non State Torture

HUMAN RIGHTS HUMAN DIGNITY Persons Against

NST

As Past National President for BPW Canada and Chair of the Women's Empowerment Committee and the Coalition to Empower Women, I would like to add the support of my committee to this Motion. The principles that we are promoting in this program is equality for women which cannot be achieved as long as there is easy access to online violent and degrading sexually explicit material on children, women and men. We are working to change the attitudes towards women in the workplace and the community, including government and civil society, which includes attitudes towards sex and violence.

Doris E. Hall
Chair
WEPs Committee/Canadian Coalition to Empower Women
Past President
The Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW Canada)



These graphic images and videos are shaping an entire generations attitude about sex, brutality, power and control. Positive messaging about gender and relationship equality, consent and respect, are undermined by this mainstream industry, which promotes and endorses sexual and physical violence. The Caribou Child & Youth Centre supports your motion to the Standing Committee on Health, asking for a modern-day study of both the immediate and long-term impacts of readily accessible, sexually explicit material on our contemporary culture.

Lois Roth
Director
Caribou Child & Youth Centre

Follow the breadcrumbs of an 11-year-old who Googles "sex" on their computer or cell phone. Within a few clicks you'll discover that porn is not what it used to be. Relying on "Are You Over 18?" as a safeguard to keep children from accessing sexual violence online is clearly not enough (and that's what a porn star recently told us.) When ten percent of 12 to 13-year-olds fear they are addicted to pornography, they're not talking about the magazines they found under their dad's bed. They're talking about multiple penetrations, money shot compilations, and women being punished - all in HD and available 24/7. This is the new mainstream. Motion M-47 could help us protect Canadian kids. We're in.

Jared and Michelle Brock Founders & Filmmakers Hope for the Sold



We at Crossroads Resource Centre and Women's Shelter support your motion to the Standing Committee on Health to conduct a study into the public health impacts of online violent and degrading sexually explicit material on children, women and men. Crossroads provides shelter and support to families in crisis as well as public and classroom preventative programming. Through our work, we recognise that early exposure to material with violent or explicitly sexual content is damaging both mentally and emotionally to both individuals and families. A study, which will, hopefully result in strategies to prevent easy access to online violent and sexually explicit material is much needed.

Wendy Biegel
Executive Director
Crossroads Resource Centre and Women's Shelter



The impact of widespread distribution of violent and degrading material on relational development, domestic violence, mental and community health needs to be more clearly understood and appropriately addressed by those elected to represent our communities.

K. Brian McConaghy Founding Director Ratanak International



As the founder of "Save My Generation" and as one who had been ensnared in the trap of pornography at the young of 8 years old, I believe that Motion M-47 will protect the men, women and children of this country. If this motion were in action when I was introduced to pornography, I may not have been scarred as badly as I have been. I believe that it is time for Canada to turn to concrete action to protect the lives of my generation which is what this motion has the potential of doing. Once passed, this motion is going to change and save lives in Canada. Thank you for leading our nation in the fight against the harmful effects of pornography.

Joseph Deschambault (13 years old) Founder Save My Generation



Violent and degrading sexually explicit material is a public health crisis. It affects all dynamics of health physical, psychological, emotional and relational - and is having profound and detrimental effects on child social and sexual development. Further, its' relationship to commercial sexual exploitation, rape culture and the proliferation of child pornography are things society is going to have to address. The kind of study proposed by Motion M-47 will be critical to understanding those harms and finding ways to address them.

Julia Beazley,
Director of Public Policy
The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada



SOROPTIMIST

Given today's wide spread media access and exposure by adolescents and children to media violence and degrading images, a study and media protection of our youth is long overdue. UN declarations of 1989, 1994 and 1995 require Canada to protect children, adolescents and youth, and particularly women and girls, from this type of exposure and violence. We fully support your introduction of Motion M-47 to Parliament for debate which calls on the Standing Committee on Health to examine the public health effects of the ease of access and viewing of on-line violent and degrading sexually explicit material on children, women and men.

Jaynne Carre
President
Soroptimist International Club of Edmonton

[free-them] is in full support of MP Viersen's Motion M-47 which calls on the Standing Committee on Health to examine the public health effect as a result from the violent and degraded nature of [online] sexually explicit material. The "online world" effects and plays an intricate part in our daily lives, both publicly and privately, through all kinds of social media platforms and endless apps that demand our attention. When we think of how much the internet has evolved in the past five years alone, it is scary to think that the government has neglected to review and examine online sexually explicit material in over 30 years. Further becoming desensitized to and overlooking the progression of violence that is being produced in sexually explicit material and the ease of accessibility by our young people and children in today's Technological Era. The need for an updated study to be conducted is vitally important.

Shae Invidiata Founder [free-them] We support the examination of the Standing Committee on Health regarding the health effects of the ease of access and viewing of online violent and degrading sexually explicit material. This organization has completed extensive research regarding the proliferation of the crime of child pornography as it relates to digital devices, as well as, the overall effects of child pornography on victims. We have also researched the global effects of viewing pornography and such sexually explicit material. There are disastrous possibilities for addictions and increases to violence against children and females. In addition to the long-term effects on victims, victims of these heinous crimes are further tortured daily if their pictures are on the Internet – the Internet does not forget. The proliferation of the crime of child pornography alone is unprecedented. The negative effects of being a victim of such crimes, is perpetual. Any action to reduce, control or eliminate access to this type of material online would help to assist a more positive future for children, adults and society.

**Board of Directors Child Pornography Hurts** 



MP Viersen's motion is extremely important in that it opens up the very important conversation around the violence in online sexually explicit material and the impact it has on men, women and children. This issue is truly one of the top concerns for families all across our nation. Parliamentarians have a responsibility to protect our citizens through responsible legislation.

Joy Smith
Former Member of Parliament
Founder of the Joy Smith Foundation



Violent and degrading sexually explicit material is having a devastating impact on society's views of women and sexuality, and at a pace and degree never seen before. The last time Parliament looked at this was well before the internet even existed. Every Canadian who cares about human dignity, regardless of where they stand on the political spectrum, should not only support this motion but also ensure that this topic remains a priority for Parliament until meaningful steps are taken. We look forward to seeing unanimous support from Parliament and swift cooperation by the Health committee.

Mark Penninga Executive Director ARPA Canada



Through my own experiences and that of my family, I have gained knowledge about the effects of child pornography on victims and their families. I have done extensive research over North America and written a book entitled "Digital Sexual Victims: True Cases" in which I outline my theory of "Digital Supervision©" as it relates to child protection. Children are being victimized online by predators more often than the general public realizes. They are taken from their online games programmed for children, to xxx pornographic sites, and other types of grooming. Parenting in this digital age has become so complex that parents, caregivers, professionals and guardians are finding it overwhelming to protect the innocence of their children. I support Motion M-47 and the suggested control of pornography online, for the health and safety of children and adults - all of society.

Charlene Doak-Gebauer, NNCP, RHN, B.Ed.(Bus), Hon. Business Specialist, Computer Science, Network Management, Special Education Author "Digital Sexual Victims: True Cases"

Today's Internet offers wonderful benefits to both children and adults, but it also opens up access to misogynistic and sexually violent images, as well as to sexual predation. These images are easily accessible and available and consequently pose one of the biggest threats to our children's health and safety. Action must be taken to treat this issue as the public health crisis it is. Defend Dignity fully supports Mr. Viersen's motion M-47.

Glendyne Gerrard Director Defend Dignity

We know in Canada 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 5 boys will experience some sort of child sexual abuse before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The violent and degrading sexually explicit material available online presently is only contributing to these already unbelievable numbers and is also impacting our children and youth both emotionally and mentally. Little Warriors commends MP Viersen for his efforts and supports Motion M-47 to examine the public health effects of the ease of access and viewing of online violent and degrading sexually explicit material on children, women and men.

Laurie Szymanski Executive Director Little Warriors



The impact of exposure to pornography, sexual exploitation and the overall sexualisation of children results in traumatic and detrimental outcomes for a child. It is our view that it is society's collective responsibility to protect children outweighing concerns about censorship. The Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre believes all children should be safe from all forms of child abuse. Any exposure to adult or child pornographic images is abuse and children are detrimentally harmed and further victimized by these actions.

The Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre (SKCAC) is pleased to support the motion by Arnold Viersen, MP for Peace River – Westlock, to instruct the Health Committee to study the impact of degrading and violent online content on children, women and men.

Bonnie Johnston Chief Executive Officer Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre



We know that the viewing of online, sexually explicit material is negatively affecting those who are trafficked and exploited in our society. It has proliferated violence within the sex industry to unbearable levels. It is not just staying on the screen; it is being played out on real people. Over the last 20 years, my experience in the sex industry and as a service provider has shown me that people mirror what they see online. This same material reinforces power inequalities between men and women, directs degrading behaviour mainly at young girls and women, and fosters the belief that this type of behaviour is acceptable. With the knowledge we now have of human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Canada, adopting M-47 would only accelerate our efforts to combat sexual exploitation.

Casandra Diamond Founder and Director BridgeNorth



Pornography is prostitution on film; and is the blueprint for violence against women as was shown to us by the men who paid to abuse us. It is also a root for women's inequality and allows misogyny to run as deep as the sea.

Trisha Baptie
Founding Member & Community Engagement Coordinator
EVE (formerly Exploited Voices now Educating)

I am writing on behalf of the nine Women's Centres in Nova Scotia to support Motion M-47. Women's Centres have a long history of working with women and adolescent girls in our communities. The damage caused by exposure to images that show violent and degrading treatment of women and girls is being recognized in many jurisdictions as a public health hazard. We fully support Motion M-47, and will welcome a study by the Federal Standing Committee on Health.

Georgia Barnwell
Coordinator
The Provincial Association of Women's Centres



Throughout our daily work with youth, and as the lead organization for the Coalition Against the Sexual Exploitation of Youth, our organization is very concerned about the ease of access to sexually explicit material and the impact this is having on our society. Material and images that promotes violence against women, normalizes human trafficking and sexual exploitation, and increases vulnerability for existing marginalized populations should be a concern to all Canadians. I wish you success in getting Motion M-47 passed, and urge all members of parliament to support the Motion.

Angela Crockwell
Executive Director
Thrive CYN St. John's



The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee represents 13 Municipalities, 3 School Districts and 2 Electoral Areas on Southern Vancouver Island, BC. Our job is to be the voice of the community, for families and children who may come into contact with the justice system. The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee supports conducting a study into the public health impacts of online violence and sexually explicit and degrading material on men, women and children. We hope that this study will result in strategies to prevent easy access to online violent and sexually explicit material.

Cynthia Day Chair Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee The Board of Directors of CEASE: Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation is pleased to support this motion because we are concerned about the impact on children and adults, and indeed, our society... We think it's important to understand the multiple health impacts and to create prevention initiatives and support programs to assist Canadians of all ages who want help to stop viewing violent and sexually degrading materials.

Kathleen Quinn
Executive Director
Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation



Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation

At the Regular Council meeting of November 7, 2016, the District of Highlands Council received information from Arnold Viersen, MP for Peace River, Alberta – Westlock riding regarding Bill M-47. Council members supported and passed the following motion suggested by Mr. Viersen:

That the Standing Committee on Health be instructed to examine the public health effects of the ease of access and viewing of online violent and degrading sexually explicit material on children, women and men, recognizing and respecting the provincial and territorial jurisdictions in this regard, and that the said Committee report its findings to the House no later than July 2017.

Tina Neurauter Corporate Officer District of Highlands



The Canadian Centre for Child Protection is pleased to provide the following letter of support for Motion M-47, asking the Standing Committee on Health to conduct a study on the impacts of violent pornography. As an agency dedicated to the personal safety of all children, we would like to add our voice to the many that have already supported the call for M-47.

Lianna McDonald Executive Director Canadian Centre for Child Protection

