

News release

August 20, 2008

Youth Privacy Online: Take Control, Make it Your Choice!

Unique conference will focus on finding ways to help youth protect their privacy online: Commissioner Ann Cavoukian

Online social networking has progressed well beyond the point of being a technological fad – it has become the way that millions of people choose to communicate, socialize and interact, on a daily basis. As with most innovations that have a major impact on the lives of a significant number of people, there can be serious, unexpected results if users, particularly the young, are not made aware of the potential implications.

“There are growing concerns that many young people do not fully understand the privacy risks associated with revealing too much information about themselves online,” says Ontario’s Information and Privacy Commissioner, Ann Cavoukian. “These risks range from cyberbullying, identity theft and Internet luring, to putting future job prospects at risk.”

Commissioner Cavoukian is hosting a special conference – *Youth Privacy Online: Take Control, Make it Your Choice!* – on September 4. The conference, which will be held at the Marriott Eaton Centre in downtown Toronto, will feature speakers from across North America. It will bring together professionals from a diverse range of public sector and private sector organizations who have a keen interest in helping children and youth protect their privacy on the Internet.

“This will be a forum for discussion, debate and inquiry that will focus on exploring a variety of approaches to safeguarding the privacy of children and youth on the Internet,” said the Commissioner. “It is absolutely vital that young people understand that they need to take control of how much personal information they disclose online.”

More information about the conference, including registration details, is available at:

<http://www.verney.ca/ypo2008/>.

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