

# Manitoba Ombudsman

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **National Launch of Children’s Online Privacy Discussion Paper**

The Manitoba Ombudsman is pleased to announce the national launch of the Online Children’s Privacy Working Group’s discussion paper, “There Ought to be a Law: Protecting Children’s Online Privacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.”

Ombudsman Irene Hamilton noted, “Given the prevalence of the Internet in the lives of children and youth, I am pleased that my colleagues from across the country have come together to address concerns that so many Canadians share. I hope this document will encourage further discussion about privacy and safety issues in relation to our children’s use of the Internet.”

The Children’s Online Privacy Working Group is comprised of Canadian provincial child and youth advocates and privacy commissioners. The Working Group first convened in January 2009 to discuss the harms children may face online, including exploitative marketing practices, cyber-bullying through social networking sites, and child sexual exploitation including child pornography.

The Working Group collaborated to produce the discussion paper which calls for a number of law reform proposals to better protect children’s privacy online.

The official launch of the paper took place Thursday, November 19, 2009 at the International Conference on Child Rights in Ottawa.

The launch coincides with National Child Day on November 20, which also marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations’ Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The discussion paper is available on the Manitoba Ombudsman website at <http://www.ombudsman.mb.ca/whatsnew.htm>.

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