

16TH BIENNIAL VIOLENCE AND
AGGRESSION SYMPOSIUM

University of Saskatchewan

May 17, 2016

OBJECTIVES

- The mandate of the Saskatchewan Internet Child Exploitation Unit
- Provide an overview of the strategies we are using to deal with online child predators
- Provide a glimpse of the magnitude of the problem of Child Exploitation in our Province

THE SASKATCHEWAN ICE UNIT BACKGROUND:

- The creation of ICE was due to the increasing number of files involving child pornography, child exploitation, and luring over the Internet
- In 2007, talks between the Saskatchewan Justice Department, Saskatoon Police Service, Regina Police Service, Prince Albert Police Service, and the RCMP commenced in an attempt to establish a workable model for the Province of Saskatchewan
- In 2009 the Saskatchewan Internet Child Exploitation was established

THE SASKATCHEWAN ICE UNIT BACKGROUND:

- ICE Units exist in almost every Province across Canada and throughout the world
- Because the Internet has no borders or boundaries our investigations are world wide
- We have lead and assisted with investigations in Thailand, Singapore, Germany, Great Britain, Brazil, and the USA - just to name a few



WORKING PARTNERS

- National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (Ottawa)
- Canadian Centre for Child Protection (Winnipeg)
- National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (USA)
- Cybertip.ca
- Interpol
- CBSA
- Homeland Security

MANDATE

- Investigate all **Internet child pornography and luring** cases in the Province
- Take appropriate enforcement action through **proactive and reactive** investigations
- Provide intelligence and information to Law Enforcement Services and the National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC)
- To discourage Internet Child Exploitation through awareness, education, and enforcement

DEFINITION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY:

Section 163.1(1) of the Criminal Code means;

- a) a photographic film, video, or other visual representation, whether or not it was made by electronic or mechanical means;
 - i) that shows a person who is depicted as being under the age of eighteen years and is engaged in or depicted as engaged in exploit sexual activity, or
 - ii) the dominant characteristic of which is the depiction, for a sexual purpose, of a sexual organ or the anal region of a person under the age of eighteen years;
- b) any written material, visual representation, or audio recording that advocates or counsels sexual activity with a person under the age of eighteen years that would be an offence under this Act;

OFFENCES COMMONLY INVESTIGATED

- Possession of Child Pornography - Sec. 163.1(4) CC
- Accessing Child Pornography - Sec. 163.1(4.1) CC
- Make Available / Distribution of Child Pornography - Sec. 163.1(3) CC
- Making Child Pornography - Sec. 163.1(2) CC

OFFENCES COMMONLY INVESTIGATED CONT...

- Make Sexually Explicit Material Available to a Child - Sec. 171.1 CC
- Luring a Child - Sec. 172.1 CC
- Make Arrangement / Agreement to Commit Sexual Offence Against a Child - Sec 172.2 CC

- **Victimless Crime?**
- Those who view images of Child Pornography are viewing the sexual or physical abuse of children
- An image of Child Pornography is a **PERMANENT RECORD OF THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF A CHILD**
- From this permanent record, we work to try to rescue victims and to locate and prosecute offenders

R VS KWOK

- (51) One of the images in Mr. Kwok's collection is of a young girl ("M.A.") who was rescued in 2005 due to the efforts of diligent Toronto police officers whose efforts led to the identification of the hotel room in which some of her abuse had been filmed. With that information and international cooperation between police forces, M.A.'s abuser was arrested and is now serving a 75-year sentence in the United States. He had adopted M.A. from Russia when she was five years old and essentially treated her as his sex slave for five years thereafter. He took hundreds of pictures of her being sexually abused and traded them on the Internet. Those pictures are still "out there" and some were in Mr. Kwok's collection. In the material filed by the Crown is a victim witness statement from M.A., who is now 13 years old.

M.A. SPEAKS...

- “The absolute worse (sic) thing about everything that happened to me was that 'Matthew' [her abuser] put my pictures on the internet. He traded them with other people like baseball cards. What kind of people want to see pictures of a little girl being abused in this way? I know that these pictures will never end and that my 'virtual abuse' will go on forever.
- Usually when someone is raped and abused, the abuse ends. But since Matthew put those pictures on the Internet, my abuse is still going on. Anyone can see them. People ask for them and are downloading them. Day after day. People want to see me abused.”

R VS STUPNIKOFF

- Repeat Offender
- Charged and convicted of Possession of Child Pornography and Make Available Child Pornography in 2005
 - Collection of over 8,000 CP files
 - sentenced to 12 month CSO and 3 years probation
- Charged and convicted of same offences in 2013
 - Collection of over 100,000 CP files
 - received 9.5 year global sentence

STUPNIKOFF DECISION

- At the time of sentencing in 2013 a paper had been published by University of Calgary professor Tom Flanagan:
- “It is a real issue of a persons liberty to what extent we put people in jail for doing something in the privacy of their homes, (view CP pictures/ videos) in which they do not harm another person”

STUPNIKOFF DECISION CONT...

- Sentencing Judge Agnew of the Saskatoon Provincial Court:
- “Because of the accused and people like him there are almost certainly children, including infants, toddlers, and babies, somewhere in the world, right this instant, being raped. The bodies of these children are too small to accept the adult erections, or other items, being forced into them. The flesh of these children is being torn apart, their blood is being spilt, because Mr. Stupnikoff and his ilk enjoy watching it.”
- “Viewing and possessing Child Pornography creates a market for CP. CP Makers respond to the simple rule of supply and demand. People who access and view CP, although not the creators of the CP, create a demand for Child Pornography and thus stimulates its production”

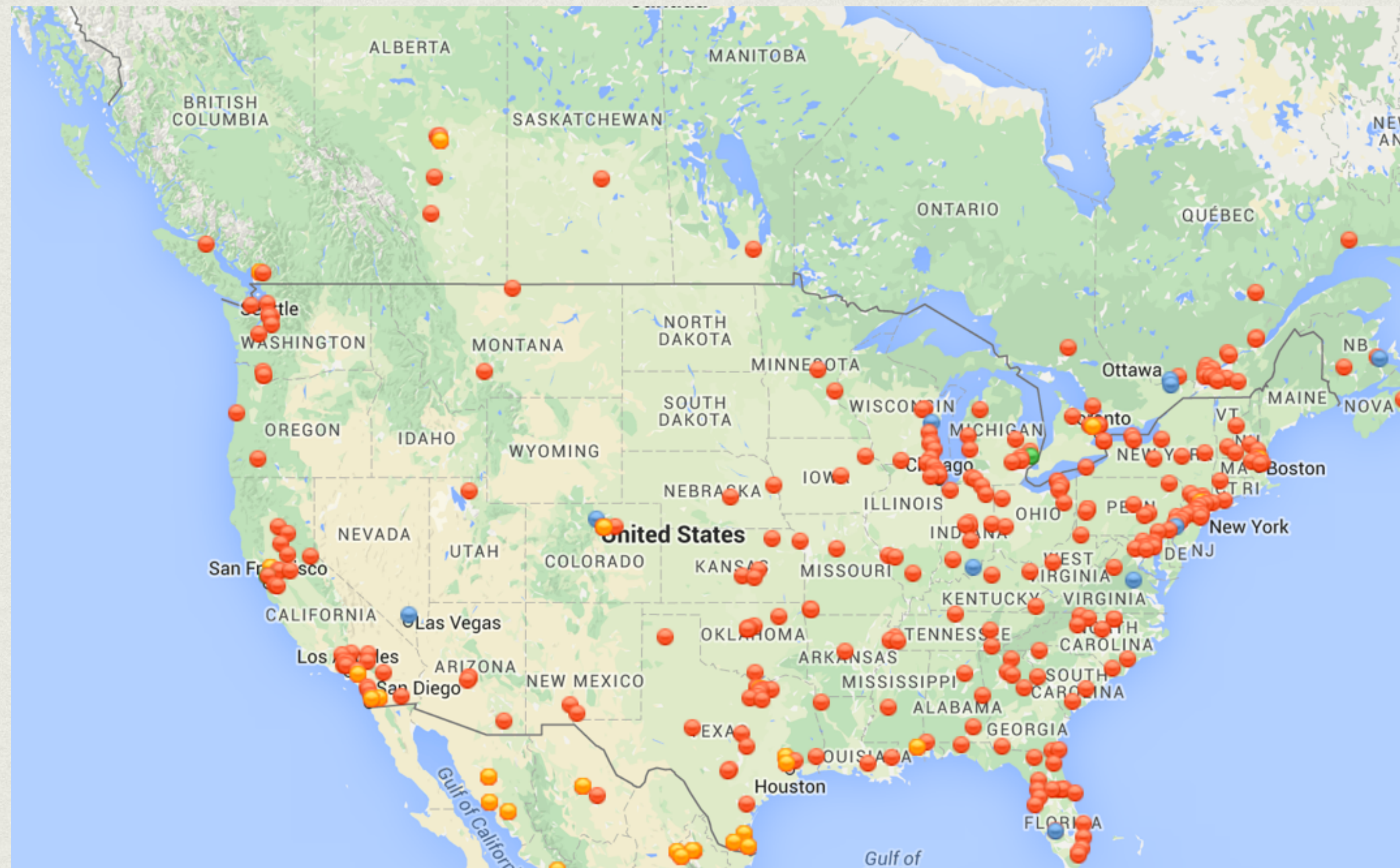
PEER-TO-PEER INVESTIGATIONS

- Specially training ICE Investigators conduct pro-active investigation on Peer-to-Peer file sharing networks looking for people (computers) trading child pornography with others all over the world
- Highly technical and specialized software allows police to focus investigations on offenders in their jurisdiction - hunting down those sharing the highest number of files, the most vile abuse, grooming material, or incest themed content
- Has resulted in hundreds of Interprovincial, National and International investigations - where hundreds of offenders have been charged and dozens of children rescued.

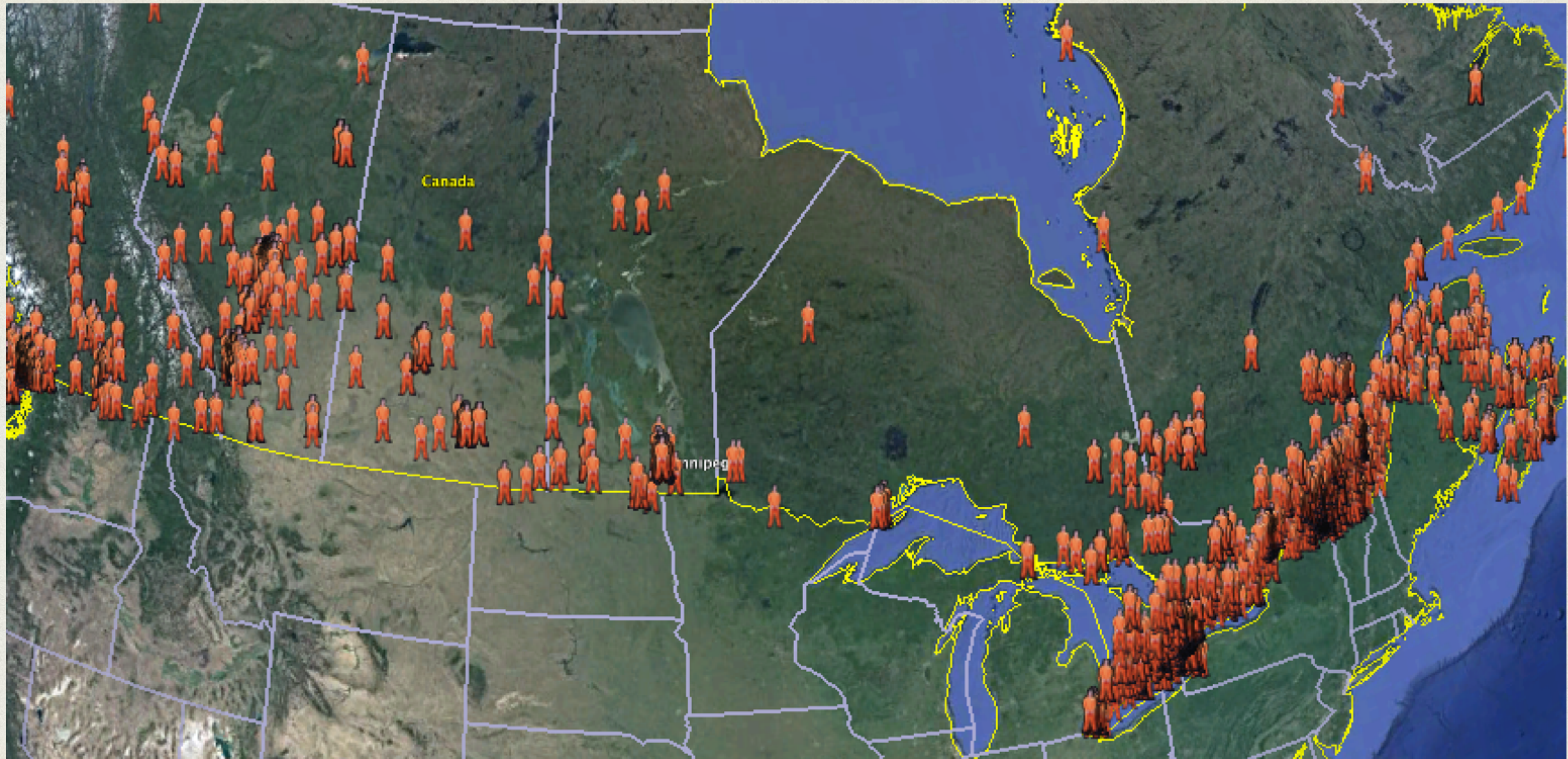
OPERATION SNAPSHOT

- Snapshot I - 2012 Prairie Region P2P Project (SK, AB, MB, NWT): Resulted in 19 arrests; 1 child rescued; hundreds of thousands of child abuse imagery seized
- Snapshot II - 2013 East Coast P2P Project (NS, NB, PEI, NL): Resulted in 9 arrests; 2 children rescued; millions of child abuse imagery seized
- Snapshot III - 2014 National P2P Project: 40 police agencies; 150 people arrested or under investigation; more than 400 charges; 19 children being sexually abused identified/rescued; tens of millions of child abuse imagery seized

PROLIFERATION OF SHARING



PINPOINTING OFFENDERS



ONLINE COVERT INVESTIGATIONS:

CHAT ROOMS



Hi. You sound real cute!!
How old are you and what
do you like doing after school?



I am 14 and a bit of a fitness
fanatic, I often go power lifting
after school.

OCI CONT...

- ICE Investigators may use online covert investigative techniques in response to complaints received or as part of a proactive investigation
- ICE Investigators may pose as children (ie: victims) or as like minded offenders and engage in online communication with potential suspects
- Depending on the investigation, the ICE Investigator may take over a live victim's (or suspect's) account or use a covert account created and maintained by the ICE Investigator

Case Study:
“Operation North Pole”

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