

“Virtual World – Real Consequences” –by Bill Belsey (90 Minutes –approx.)

Mr. Belsey’s Bio:

http://www.cyberbullying.ca/pdf/Bill_Belsey_Bullying.org_bio.pdf

Young people today are growing up in a time when they have always had access to the Internet, computers, mobile phones and other information and communication technologies (ICTs). American writer and researcher Marc Prensky calls them “Digital Natives”. Mr. Belsey refers to them as the “Always-on Generation”.

While the “Always-on Generation” may understand how to use these new ICTs with strong technical ability in cyberspace, they are often quite unaware of the real world consequences that their online behaviours and actions may have for others and for their own lives in the real world.

This presentation will use real-life stories and examples to help young people understand that their actions and behaviours online DO have real impacts on others and “What you say on the Internet, you can’t take back.”

The presentation will address issues such as privacy, personal safety identity theft, and cyberbullying and more, in an effort to have young people think before they post. This deeply engaging and at times emotional multimedia presentation will give youth, and those who care for them, much food for thought and topics for discussion and subsequent follow-up action to help them learn to think about the consequences of online behaviours.