

March 1, 2005

To whom it may concern,

**Canadian House of Parliament
Committee Studying Bill C2**

I write regarding the suitability of Mr Doug Stead as an advisor to the committee regarding Bill C2. I am pleased to recommend him unequivocally as an acknowledged expert in the area of child abuse who has a full and comprehensive understanding of the problem in both a national and international context.

I am the Head of the Department of Applied Psychology, University College, Cork and the Director of the Forensic Psychology Programme based at the same institution. I am also the Acting Head of the COPINE Unit, a unit dedicated to international research into Child Protection.

I first met Mr Stead in my capacity as the organizer of the COPINE conference of 2003 looking into the International Challenge of Child Sexual Abuse, although I knew of him before then as he is held in very high regard by a number of the police agencies I had been involved with.

This conference brought together professionals from the Police and Intelligence services around the world as well as academics and agencies involved in the care and protection of children. Mr Stead gave a very informative and well-received presentation on the role of non-government organizations (NGOs) in the fight against child abuse.

Mr Stead is a businessman who has used his considerable energy and resources to set up an NGO known as 'Entrepreneurs Against Child Pornography'. The organization raises awareness of the role of the internet in child abuse and also provides one of the largest data-bases of world-wide media response to the issue. He is a frequent and welcome contributor at conferences hosted by both academic and policing agencies, and is widely sought out for advice of the issues surrounding internet use and child abuse.

Mr Stead's has a depth of knowledge on the issues of child abuse that rival any academic in the area. I have been fortunate in convincing Mr Stead to contribute to my post-graduate academic program in Forensic Psychology. He gave a class on the topic of child sexual abuse that was extremely well received and he continues to be an advisor to students who are pursuing postgraduate research. I am hoping to convince him to find the time to complete a PhD thesis in my department, mostly, it has to be said, so that we can keep his expertise in house.

In summary, then, I have the greatest respect for Mr Stead's knowledge and considered wisdom and in this I am not alone. I can recommend him to the House as an excellent advisory voice in the contentious and complex area of child protection.

Yours Faithfully,

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