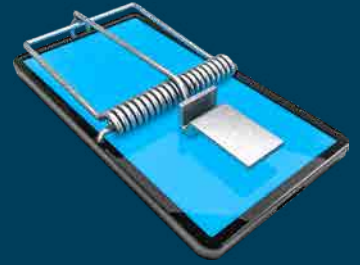


Online Grooming and Luring

Human Trafficking Awareness Day Feb 22, 2023



Online luring or grooming is when a person uses technology such as social media, gaming sites and/or chat rooms to convince children and youth to participate in sexual actions they do not want to do.

What does luring and grooming look like?



- **Predators** may present themselves to you as a friend from school, a friend of a friend or someone you met through extracurricular activities.
- They may use **flattery** and **compliments** to get you to warm up to them. Alternately, they may use **intimidation, harassment** and **threats** to control your interaction with them.
- They may **promise gifts** like a new phone, tablet, money, drugs or alcohol.
- They may empathize with a vulnerability you shared online, like a struggle you're having at home, to build trust and comfort
- They may exchange **inappropriate pictures** with you as a way to convince you to send inappropriate pictures or videos in return. This may lead to **blackmail** like threatening to send inappropriate pictures to **family and friends** if you don't do what they say.

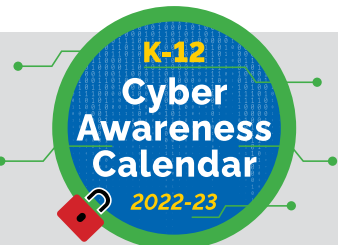


What to do if you think you're being lured

- Reach out to a trusted adult
- If you need help right away, call 9-1-1
- To report sex trafficking and get help, call the **Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline 1-833-900-1010** or visit www.canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca

Online safety tips

1. **Check friend requests** and **group invites** before accepting them. Check if you have friends in common and don't feel pressured to accept them.
2. Do not share any **personal information** with anyone you have only interacted with online.
3. Avoid **posting** information that may suggest **problems or issues** at home or school as the predator may use it to take advantage of your feelings and situation.
4. If someone online is offering you something **too good to be true** - like **money** or a **new phone** - it probably is. Reach out to a trusted adult.
5. Never **share your location** or meet up with anyone you met online without first discussing it with a trusted adult.



Resources:

- Signs that someone is being sex trafficked or sexually exploited
- Online Luring - why teens are vulnerable and how to talk to youth about it
- Online grooming: what it is and how to protect yourself