



Bill Belsey – Creator of www.bullying.org- Biography

Bill Belsey is the creator of the multiple award-winning Web site www.bullying.org, the number one Web site about bullying in the world, www.cyberbullying.ca, the world's first Web site about the issue of cyberbullying, and the President of Bullying.org Canada, Incorporated. Mr. Belsey has often been cited as the first person to use the term cyberbullying and define this new behaviour.

A much sought-after speaker and presenter on the topic of bullying and cyberbullying, Mr. Belsey most recently worked as a Senior Educational Advisor for Canada's SchoolNet (www.schoolnet.ca), a national Industry Canada educational program, and coordinated Canada's National Network of Innovative schools (NIS), an Industry Canada program that worked with provincial and territorial governments, the private sector and the education community to help integrate information and communication technology (ICT) into the learning environment.

As a volunteer, Mr. Belsey is the Executive Director of iEARN-Canada, the Canadian affiliate of the International Education and Resource Network (www.iearn.org), a non-profit global network that enables young people to use the Internet and other new technologies to engage in collaborative educational projects that both enhance learning and make a difference in the world. For iEARN, Mr. Belsey collaborated on The Community NET-Workers project, which challenges schools to build Web sites with and for local community non-profit groups, and The Child Soldier Project (www.childsoldiers.org -in association with iEARN-Sierra Leone), which addresses the issue of the child soldier. In 1999, the United Nations International Year of Older Persons (IYOP), he conceived of, and piloted a project called Generations Can Connect, a project for young people to use digital tools to record the thoughts, memories, stories and artifacts of older persons that is now administered by Canada's SchoolNet.

Mr. Belsey was asked by Industry Canada to create the Timecapsule2000 project, which was recognized by Prime Minister Jean Chretien as one of Canada's National Millennium projects. He conceived of, and helped to pilot SchoolNet's successful Generations Can Connect project that links youth and seniors in honour of the United Nations International Year of Older Persons in .1999. He was chosen to become a member of the 2B1 Foundation, an initiative of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab to connect all children in all countries to the Internet. He is also a founding member of the Canadian Chapter of the Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, a group that provides the public and policymakers with realistic assessments of the power, promise and problems of information technology.

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Mr. Belsey has presented at many conferences around the world on the topics of technology, learning and community development. In 1997, he was asked by CIDA, the Canadian International Development Agency, and the World Bank to present his thoughts and his work on universal access to information and communication technologies at the Global Knowledge conference in Toronto.

Mr. Belsey is a winner of the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Technology, and is also a recipient of the Royal Bank Fellowship from the Mathematics, Science and Technology Group at Queen's University and the Roy C. Hill Fellowship for Innovations in Education, which is administered by the Canadian Teachers Federation. He was named as a finalist for the Canadian New Media "Educator of the Year" Award, and his work has been featured at an exhibit at the Museum of Civilization as one of Canada's "Global Heroes."

Before settling in Cochrane, AB, where he lives with his wife and two children, Mr. Belsey spent 20 years living and working with the Inuit people of the Canadian Arctic as an educator and community activist. He was the driving force behind Igalaag, the Rankin Inlet Community Access Centre, which was the very first Community Access Centre in the Canadian Arctic.

In addition to creating www.bullying.org and www.cyberbullying.ca, Mr. Belsey conceived of, and worked with Family Channel to create and launch the world's first "Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week". He is also the driving force behind his community of Cochrane, Alberta to be the world's first community to officially proclaim itself as "Striving to be Bully-free". He is often cited as the first person to use the word and define the behaviour "cyberbullying".

Mr. Belsey has been a consultant to the Dr. Phil Show, ABC News 20/20, the CTV and CBC National News and other media across Canada and around the world. Mr. Belsey was also asked to travel to Bangkok, Thailand to share his knowledge about cyberbullying and youth with the United Nations International Research Study on Violence and Children

Bill is quick to point out that his most important commitments have been as husband to his wife and as father to his children.