



Modern Media Committee Call to Action

Please write or email your member of parliament to support Motion M-47, introduced by Alberta MP Arnold Viersen.

Motion M-47 states:

That the Standing Committee on Health be instructed to examine the public health effects of the ease of access and viewing of online violent and degrading sexually explicit material on children, women and men, recognizing and respecting the provincial and territorial jurisdictions in this regard, and that the said Committee report its findings to the House no later than July 2017.

If this motion is adopted by the House of Commons, it would require the Standing Committee on Health to conduct a study on violent pornography. The last major federal study on the impact of pornography was in 1985 before the Internet was invented. A study would allow for a broad spectrum of stakeholders to be involved in developing future policy on this important issue.

“...with the issue of online violent sexualized content we have seen significant research that shows that generations, now of young people and young boys specifically, who are being exposed to explicit violent sexualized content that depicts the degradation and the dehumanization, objectification of women leads to increased violence.... As a mother, I know how many times children accidentally stumble onto some of the most horrifying sexual violence on the Internet when they are innocently typing in something. To see that kind of long-term shaping of attitudes towards women and girls, which are based, and shaping of attitudes towards sex and shaping of attitudes towards relationships that then become based on violence, and we're seeing it more and more because of the violent content on the Internet that increasingly higher numbers of young children are being exposed to.”

Ms. Dawn Lavell-Harvard [Except from AANO Committee – April 12, 2016]

Contact Information

Lethbridge Constituency

Ms. Rachel Harder

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House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Mail may be sent postage-free to any Member of Parliament.

Timeline

- November 14 – Scheduled First hour of debate
- December 8 or 9 – Second hour of debate
- December 14 – Vote on M-47
- Spring 2017 – If successful, a study will be held during this time

This letter may also be downloaded from the Modern Media Website...

ModernMedia.NRCLethbridge.com

Sample Letter to an MP on Motion M-47

[date]

[MP first name] [MP last name], MP
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Mr./Ms. [MP last name],

I am one of your constituents in the riding of [name of riding]. Thank you for your work on behalf of our community.

I am writing to you because I am very concerned about violent and sexually degrading explicit material on the Internet. This material is now easily accessible, affordable and anonymous online. It is sexually violent and cruel to an extent unimagined in the past, and there is very little to protect children from being exposed at younger and younger ages.

Many children, and most teens have seen sexually degrading images online, often accidentally or incidentally.

Youth exposed to violent and sexually degrading images are more likely to accept sexual harassment and violence, to have multiple sex partners and to engage in early, more frequent, more permissive and riskier sexual activity.

I believe that exposure to these images is contributing to the rise in sexual harassment, assault, and rape – and the recording and distribution of images and video of these – on school and college campuses across the country. The consequences are devastating.

I would like Parliament to study the public health effects of these images being so easily accessible online, and viewed by children and teens. I believe this is becoming a public health crisis.

As my Member of Parliament, I ask you to support Motion M-47 when it comes to a vote. This motion would instruct the Standing Committee on Health to study the public health effects of the ease of access and viewing of online violent and degrading sexually explicit material.

I would also appreciate hearing how you will communicate my concerns on this issue to your colleagues.

Sincerely,

[Your name]
[Your address]