



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
OFFICE OF THE HON. HEDY FRY, P.C., M.P.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 2, 2009

## FRY INTRODUCES CYBER BULLYING BILL

OTTAWA - The Hon. Hedy Fry, MP for Vancouver Centre, yesterday introduced a Private Members Bill C-355, seconded by Brian Murphy, MP for Moncton-Riverview-Dieppe, to the House of Commons, which would amend the Criminal Code in order to clarify that cyberbullying is an offence. Bill C-355 is supported by the Canadian Teachers' Federation, which represents close to 200,000 teachers across the country, and the anti-bullying website, [BullyingCanada.ca](http://BullyingCanada.ca).

"In the digital age, bullying has spread from Canada's schoolyards to the Internet, so that criminal harassment, defamatory libel, and false messages are now carried out electronically in order to injure reputations, insult, and expose to hate or ridicule others," said Dr. Fry. "In a recent study by the University of Toronto, 50% of students admit to being the victims of cyberbullying in the last 3 months. My bill updates the Criminal Code to clarify that cyberbullying is indeed an offence that will lead to criminal prosecution."

"This bill has the potential of being the first concrete step in making the Criminal Code of Canada more effective in addressing the issue of cyberbullying," said Emily Noble, President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation. "These proposed changes to the Criminal Code, along with protective measures already adopted by provincial/territorial governments, would complement the ongoing educational efforts that are currently being undertaken to address this cyberbullying."

Katie Neu, co-founder of [BullyingCanada.ca](http://BullyingCanada.ca), said that there is an urgent need for updated legislation.

"Times are changing and cyber bullying is becoming more and more of an issue and people don't really know how to handle the situation," said Ms. Neu. "If the Criminal Code includes cyberbullying then maybe it can be stopped before it gets any worse."

-30-

### CONTACTS

OTTAWA  
Katherine Day 613-220-0275

VANCOUVER  
Zachary Mallett 604-762-4386  
Barbara Snelgrove 604-202-1336