



We Love Our Children Family Expo - May 29th & 30th, 2009 - Exhibition Park

Media Release

For Immediate Release

Internet Safety Pioneer to Speak at Family Expo

Halifax, NS, May 7, 2009 – The We Love Our Children Family Expo (May 29th & 30th) and **BETSTOPPER** are pleased to present **Parry Aftab** as Friday evening's Key Note Speaker.

Parry Aftab is a US security and cyberspace lawyer, as well as an author and child advocate. Most of her time is donated to Internet issues involving children. Her main focus is teaching responsible use of technology to parents and young people. **Ms. Aftab** will give a presentation on Internet safety at 7:00pm on Friday, May 29th on the **BETSTOPPER** Main Stage. She will cover cyberbullying, sexting, internet sexual predators, and ways to avoid online fraud, scams, and viruses. She'll also address Facebook, Club Penguin and Webkinz issues.

Ms. Aftab has helped design programs for parents and children teaching them how to use the Internet safely since 1997. Family PC Magazine named **Parry Aftab** Internet Pioneer of the Year in 2001 and the Whitehouse presented her with the US President's Service Award. **Parry Aftab** also provides parent Internet education and online safety content for such diverse companies as Disney, Microsoft, Oracle, Verizon, AT&T and MSNBC. Her expertise is in demand, because no one knows more about children online than **Parry Aftab**. She recently married a Maritimer and splits her time between New York and New Brunswick, where her husband operates the Canadian non profit Child Safety Research and Innovation Center (csric.org). She is Chair of McAfee's Consumer Advisory Board, as well.

As Executive Director of WiredSafety.org, the largest online safety and educational program in cyberspace, **Ms. Aftab** helps prevent and investigate cybercrime. Its Wired Kids project, which launched in 1995 (www.wiredkids.org) provides important information and programs for children and teens, educators, law enforcement, parents and librarians. It is designed to be a one-stop source for all matters related to children online, including online safety and privacy.

A free speech advocate, **Ms. Aftab** seeks to empower parents, not the censors. Her work has been featured nationally and internationally in online and print publications, including **Readers Digest (Canadian and US editions), Cosmopolitan, The Globe and Mail, People Magazine, Redbook, Family Circle, Newsweek, Good Housekeeping, The Wall Street Journal** and **The New York Times**, to name just a few. **Ms. Aftab** has presented her findings to many government agencies and groups worldwide, all with the same message, "The Internet is a wonderful resource

for families, and once parents understand the online risks, they can use common sense (and perhaps some technology tools) to help their children enjoy cyberspace safely.”

The We Love Our Children Family Expo will be held at Exhibition Park in Halifax on Friday, May 29th and Saturday, May 30th. This year’s event will feature loads of interactive activities for the whole family, fabulous exhibits, incredible guest speakers and lots of prizes and give aways! Visit www.familyexpo.ca for more information and a complete schedule of events.

About BETSTOPPER:

BETSTOPPER was invented and developed by the Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation (NSGC). It is the first software in the world dedicated specifically to help parents protect their children from being exposed to unregulated and potentially harmful gambling activity online. **BETSTOPPER** is not intended to replace the supervisory role that each parent has, but it is a tool to help parents and put them more at ease when their child is on-line.

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Ticket Information: Tickets on sale now. **NEW HOURS!** Event hours: Friday, May 29th, 5pm-9pm. Saturday, May 30th, 10am – 7pm. Adults and seniors \$10.00, children 12 and under are free. Tickets are available at the door and Ticket Atlantic locations; www.ticketatlantic.com or 902-451-1221.

We Love Our Children Family Expo is produced by Offspring Productions. The 2009 Family Expo would like to acknowledge the following Sponsors for their generous support: BETSTOPPER, Delta Hotels, FlyHalifax.com, Tripcentral.ca, Elections Nova Scotia, Province of Nova Scotia, Tim Horton’s, Concepts School of Cosmetology, CTV, Z103.5, HRM and The Chronicle Herald.

For more information, interviews or high-resolution images please contact:

Tara Foster, Communications Coordinator
902-429-4069
Tara@chromeaffair.com

For more information on **BETSTOPPER** or to arrange an interview with Marie Mullally contact:
VP Prevention Programming and Public Affairs
Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation
902-424-4443
RMclsaac@nsgc.ca