



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mr. Antoine Normand Honoured by the Government of Canada

Gatineau, February 27, 2013 – At a Gatineau Chamber of Commerce dinner, Senator Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu on behalf of Senator Claude Carignan, Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate, honoured Antoine Normand for his outstanding work in combatting child pornography.

Senator Boisvenu presented Mr. Normand, chair of the Gatineau Chamber of Commerce, with a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. In addition to his social and community contributions, whether as chair of the Chamber of Commerce, president of the CSSSG Foundation, board member of CLD Gatineau or founder of the Centre des jeunes dirigeants d'entreprises du Québec, to name only a few, it was Mr. Normand's commitment to combatting child pornography on the Internet that particularly impressed Senator Carignan.

Through his company, BlueBear LAS, Mr. Normand developed and marketed a framework of automated tools called LACE, which analyzes and categorizes image and video evidence files seized during child pornography investigations. The average case file now involves hundreds of thousands of images and videos and can take police investigators months to categorize. The software developed by Mr. Normand typically allows 90% to 95% of the case files to be automatically categorized, thus reducing the manual review needed to a few hours or a few days per case.

In addition to sales to the Winnipeg Police Service, the York Regional Police, the Montreal Police Service and the Sureté du Québec, the company has branched into the international market, with sales to agencies in Switzerland, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Spain and Japan, as well as the police forces in several US states and the FBI. BlueBear is now recognized as the world leader for this type of product.

Senator Boisvenu concluded by saying, "*The public often forgets that behind the images and videos are real children who are being sexually exploited. Law enforcement has a duty to find these children and help them. Mr. Normand has made an immense and invaluable contribution to achieving this goal, and deserves our gratitude. On behalf of myself and the Government of Canada, I hereby present this Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal to Antoine Normand for his significant contribution to combating child pornography on the Internet and make sure to put away all cyberpredators from social Medias.*"

Source: Office of Senator Claude Carignan

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