

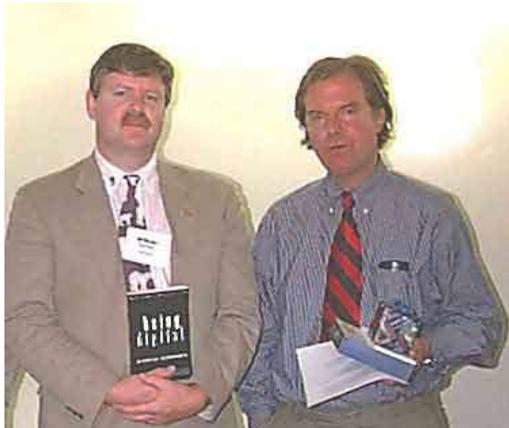
Bill Belsey -Biography



Bill and students meet with former Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.

Bill Belsey's teaching career has included living and working with the Inuit of Canada's Arctic for nearly twenty years, where he introduced the very first computer into Canadian Arctic schools. In the early 1990's he also helped to bring the Internet to the community of Rankin Inlet and established the very first Community Access Centre in the Canadian Arctic called "Igalaaq" -Inuktitut for window, see <http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/igalaaq.pdf>. This pioneering work was honoured with the Royal Bank and Conference Board of Canada's National Partners in Education Award.

In 1997 Mr. Belsey was invited to work with Dr. Seymour Papert and Nicholas Negroponte at the world-famous M.I.T. Media Lab to work on issues re. the innovative use of ICTs to support teaching and learning.



With Dr. Nicholas Negroponte at M.I.T.



With Dr. Seymour Papert at M.I.T.

He was asked by CIDA, the Canadian International Development Agency and the World Bank to present his thoughts and his work at the Global Knowledge '97 conference in Toronto on the topic of "Universal Access to Information and Communication Technologies", see <http://www.inukshuk.com/gk-97.html>. At this conference, former World Bank President, Mr. James Wolfenson, praised the impact of this work. He has also been an advisor to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the U.S. Peace corps. His pioneering work has been featured at an exhibit at the Canadian Museum of Civilization as one of Canada's "Global Heroes".

He is a winner of the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Technology. He 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. He has been named as a finalist for the annual Canadian New Media "Educator of the Year" Award. He has also been chosen to be a recipient of the prestigious CANARIE IWAY Awards (IWAY is short for Information Highway). These awards honour Canadians who have made outstanding contributions to Canada's world-recognized information society – celebrating innovators behind Canada's advanced broadband development and use.

From 1999 until 2003, he was a Senior Educational Advisor for Canada's SchoolNet and was Coordinator for Canada's National Network of Innovative Schools (NIS).

For nearly a decade, Mr. Belsey was the volunteer Executive Director for iEARN-Canada, the Canadian chapter of iEARN, the International Education and Resource Network, see www.iearn.org. iEARN is the world's largest and most-experienced K-12 professional learning community with over three million members in over 120 countries who share the vision of "Connecting Youth and Making a Difference" by working on international collaborative projects using information and communications technologies.

He is the founder and President of Bullying.org Canada Incorporated, an internationally nationally recognized educational organization that is dedicated to the prevention of bullying through education and awareness.

One of his projects, www.bullying.org, (not active) was honoured with the Cable and Wireless ChildNet Award, which goes to projects that make the Internet a better and safer place for children. This project was also named as a finalist in the Stockholm Challenge Awards, an award that has been called the Nobel Prize of the Information Technology (IT) world.

www.bullying.org has received as many as one million visitors and contributors and was often listed as the number one bullying-referenced Web site in the world.

Mr. Belsey also created www.cyberbullying.ca, thought by many to be the first Web site in the world to address the issue of cyberbullying. He is often cited as the first person to use the word and define the behaviour "cyberbullying".

In 2002, Mr. Belsey conceived of, and helps to coordinate Canada's annual National Bullying Awareness Week, see www.bullyingawarenessweek.org

In 2004, Mr. Belsey was honoured as Cochrane, Alberta's "Ambassador of the Year".

He created the award-winning www.childsoldiers.org, (no longer online) that helped to raise global awareness about the issue of child soldiers with stories, artwork and multimedia exposés from youth who have been affected by war.

Mr. Belsey and his students collaborated with Palestinian students in Jerusalem and Canadian soldiers serving in Afghanistan to address the question, "How do you see peace?" Their online collaboration can be viewed online at www.seeingpeace.net.

Mr. Belsey and his grade five students collaborated with High School students at Gabarone Secondary School in Gabarone, Botswana to collaborate and create www.net4nets.net, a project that serves to raise awareness about the issue of Malaria and its affects on children. Mr. Belsey's students raised funds to purchase mosquito bednets for families in Botswana that were later delivered by their partner students at Gabarone Secondary School.

In 2004, Mr. Belsey was honoured as Cochrane Alberta's "Ambassador of the Year".

In June 2005, Mr. Belsey was also asked to share his work about bullying and cyberbullying with the United Nations International Research Study on Violence and Children in Bangkok. See http://www.ecpat.net/eng/ecpat_inter/irc/newsdesk_articles.asp?SCID=1625

Mr. Belsey has been interviewed by the late Peter Gzowski on CBC Radio's national "Morningside" radio show and has also appeared numerous times on the CTV and CBC National News. He has been a consultant to "The Dr. Phil Show", ABC News 20/20 with Diane Sawyer, CNN –Anderson Cooper AC360 and was also asked to offer his input into the United National International Research Study in Bangkok on Violence and Children. His print interviews have appeared in Parenting Magazine, the Globe and Mail, and the Christian Science Monitor. In an interview with Mr. Belsey on CBC TV's "The National", Peter Mansbridge referred to www.bullying.org as "One of the best Web sites in the world for children".

In May 2006, Mr. Belsey received Canada's National Technology Innovations Award from The Learning Partnership and his presentation "Change the World 101" was given the "Conference Award" as the most outstanding work presented during the entire gathering. See http://www.thelearningpartnership.ca/NTIA/NTIA_2006_I&L_conference_awarddinner.htm

In October 2006, Mr. Belsey was named as a Fellow of the World Technology Network in the Education category at a gala event at San Francisco's City Hall. At this same ceremony, former U.S. Vice President Al Gore was inducted as a Fellow in the Environment category and Tim Burners-Lee, one of the co-creators of the World Wide Web, was honoured in the Internet category. See <http://www.wtn.net>

In September 2007 he launched Canada's very first online courses and Webinars about bullying and cyberbullying for parents and educators at www.bullyingcourse.com. Mr. Belsey has created a partnership with Colombia's CES University. As a result of this collaboration, his "E101 –An Introduction to Bullying for Educators" online course will be offered to educators around the world in Spanish.

In November 2007 he was nominated for the YMCA Peace Medal.

In 2010, Mr. Belsey was the keynote speaker at Australia's annual National Conference on Bullying.



Bill Belsey with (then) Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard

In December 2011 he was asked to give testimony about bullying and cyberbullying to the Human Rights Committee of the Canadian Senate.

In 2012, Mr. Belsey was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal which honours significant contributions and achievements by Canadians.

In 2015 Mr. Belsey was honoured with the Edna Dach Award by the Alberta Teachers' Association for his leadership and innovations in the use of technology to support teaching and learning.

Mr. Belsey now lives in Cochrane, Alberta, with his wife, Helene (also a teacher), and two teenage children. He currently teaches at Springbank Middle School for the Rockyview School Division. To check out his students' innovative work, do a Google search for "Canada's Coolest Class" then click on "I'm feeling lucky", you will be directed to www.coolclass.ca.

He is a much sought-after speaker and presenter on the topics of bullying, cyberbullying, cyberparenting, technology integration, innovation, community development and global education. He has presented at many conferences across Canada and around the world.

If you are interested in having Mr. Belsey present to your organization or at your conference, you can contact him directly.

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