

Having a Safe Online Presence After Leaving Your Community



Sometimes, to escape violence in relationships, Indigenous survivors living in isolated communities must relocate to a women's shelter or transition house in a neighbouring community.

Social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Snapchat are used to stay connected to friends and family, but sometimes they are misused by abusers to stalk, harass, and humiliate survivors.

This tip sheet has been created for Indigenous survivors who may be creating a social media account for the first time and for those who want to make sure they use their accounts safely.

Set Up or Review Your Account for Privacy

- Create a new email account on a safe computer to use only for social media.
- Consider not using your real name or spell your name differently when creating your profile username.
- Use a generic picture for your profile picture such as one of a flower, car, or a beach in another country.
- Go through your privacy settings to make sure you are not sharing the location of the new shelter and set up your account to only share posts with people you trust.
- Create or change your password to one that is hard to guess but long in length.
 - Example: SummerIsMyFavouriteSeasOn!
- Set up two-factor authentication so that you will get notified if someone tries to log in to your account.

Become Familiar with Social Media Tools that Help Keep You Safe

- Most social media companies have safety centres or pages to help guide you through keeping your account safe and private.
 - See the **Specific App Guides** section in our [toolkit](#).
- If you are receiving harassing messages on social media, you can block the abusive person and/or report them or their post to the company.
- If your nude photo or video was shared on social media or someone is threatening to share one, you can “create a case” on these sites so that the image will be taken down immediately or be prevented from ever being uploaded.
 - For images taken when you were 18 or older:
<https://stopncii.org/>
 - For images taken when you were 17 or younger:
<https://takeitdown.ncmec.org/>

For more information for survivors in rural, remote norther and Indigenous communities, see our [Navigating Tech Abuse Toolkit](#).

Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV) is part of a continuum of violence that can be both online and in-person. If you or someone you know is experiencing TFGBV, you are not alone. You can use sheltersafe.ca to find a shelter/transition house near you to discuss options and create a [safety plan](#). You don't need to stay in a shelter to access free, confidential services and support.

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