FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**New podcast protects kids online**

Listen to DEFEND’S new podcast Oct 31, 2021

October 25, 2021– A brand new podcast called The Dark Side of the Web launches on Halloween. It is created by DEFEND a volunteer-run not-for-profit that aims to reduce risks for children and vulnerable people online by education and advocacy.

Each podcast is a fictional story about what can happen to vulnerable people and children when they are online. The inaugural episode highlights a young gamer who is influenced negatively by the adults he is playing against. The many impacts on him and his family are highlighted.

The magical number is 20,307,216 child abuse reports on Facebook in 2020, and Halloween is the ideal time of year to draw attention to this staggering fact because it is horrid. DEFEND is encouraging people to listen to the podcast to learn more about the threats online.

DEFEND calls for ALL social media sites to have age/ID verification for every user, so monsters who prey on children are a thing of the past. DEFEND volunteer from Toronto **Bill Campbell, an animator in film and television for over 25 years, got involved with DEFEND because he loved the idea of helping kids and other vulnerable groups stay safe while online. Bill also wanted to concentrate more on independent film making as opposed to working for someone else. Bill says the guys at DEFEND really let him and his partner, Tony Baker, do their own take on the podcast episode they created.**

The Dark Side of the Web

Available anywhere you get your podcasts - Apple Store or Google Play

Weekly Podcast

Sunday, October 31, 2021

First episode - “Beta”

DEFEND aims to:

●     **Educate** parents, kids and the general public about a variety of online risks

●     **Advocate** for vulnerable people by taking steps to make real changes

●     **Protect** children by demanding the Canadian/US governments legislate age/ID verification on all social media platforms

Currently, DEFEND is run by more than 60 professionals across the world. Some are parents, who are very concerned about their children's safety using social media. Others are family members or friends of highly vulnerable people who take an interest in protecting those who are potential targets. **DEFEND volunteer Bill Campbell adds he and his partner Tony Baker, loved collaborating with the DEFEND team, they learned a lot, and hope their efforts will make kids and others safe while online.**

To be proactive, DEFEND is currently working with their Tech Team to develop a new social media platform called 65square which will have age and ID verification built-in from the ground up. 65square developers believe safety is a priority, more information can be found on [DEFEND’s YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDTQNWALwdc).

For more information, please contact:

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