



The *Child Search Network*: Part of Canada's National Strategy for Missing Children

Many missing children cases cross municipal, provincial, territorial and even international borders and not all high-risk missing children cases meet the AMBER Alert criteria. The MCSC *Child Search Network* provides police services and Canadians across Canada with a quick, easy and effective way to share information and collaborate with one another to find missing children more quickly and reunite them with their families.

Canada's national infrastructure to manage missing children cases now involves three (3) key components: the AMBER Alert System, the Missing Children Society of Canada's *Child Search Network*, and the RCMP Missing Persons DNA Program.

a) AMBER Alert System

AMBER Alerts are issued by the police only when a missing child age 18 and under is believed to have been abducted and is in imminent danger.

AMBER Alerts are sent through the National Public Alerting System to mobile phones, on broadcast media, through social media, and on highway signs. AMBER Alerts include the name, and a description of the abducted child, who he or she might be with, and descriptions of any vehicle suspected of being used in the alleged abduction. They are broadcast to all citizens in a large geographic area (e.g. Northern Alberta, Southern Ontario) and are received based on a real-time location.

b) The Missing Children Society of Canada's *Child Search Network*

The MCSC *Child Search Network* is a system connecting police agencies across the country and linking community members to police services.

The network includes a database with real-time details from police about missing children cases, with photos, location maps and capacity to deliver the information to community members and first responders specific to their location. It also lets the public share vital information with police via the technology. The *Child Search Network* consists of different communication channels used to convey Child Search Alerts including MCSC rescu, traditional media, Facebook, Twitter, or SMS text.



Missing Children Society of Canada

- **Child Search Alerts**

Child Search Alerts are issued by the Missing Children Society of Canada, in conjunction with police, for an urgent missing child case that does not meet the AMBER Alert threshold but requires immediate community assistance.

Once a police service has initiated a missing person's investigation and the investigating team has defined the parameters of the search, they may issue a Child Search Alert. This is achieved by accessing the **MCSC Child Search Network - Police Hub**, a secure online portal, where the police upload missing persons cases to be made accessible to law enforcement agencies, first responders and the general public.



Child Search Alerts are targeted to specific geographic areas (e.g., city or street). Police services in that region will be advised. Also, Canadians who have registered for the alerts via **MCSC rescu**, will be advised based on the location the user specified when they registered.

As the missing person investigation evolves, different alerts may be issued at different times, in different regions.

- **MCSC rescu (<https://rescu.mcsc.ca>)**

The general public is invited to share any information they may have regarding a missing person's investigation via MCSC rescu. (Only police can upload/submit cases)

Canadians can serve as the valuable eyes and ears of the police and as a voice for the missing child/youth. Canadians can scan the QR code or visit <https://rescu.mcsc.ca> to register and add MCSC rescu to their device's home screen. This tool provides access to information about missing children cases featured on the *Child Search Network*, thereby advising the police of the tips that may help them to locate and reunite the child/youth with their family.



c) National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains

The National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) is Canada's national centre that assists law enforcement, medical examiners and chief coroners with missing persons and unidentified remains investigations across the country.

This website features profiles of missing persons and unidentified remains that have been published at the request of the primary investigator from either a police, coroner, or medical examiner agency. The lead investigator determines when and whether to publish a case.

While this website does not include a listing of profiles for all missing persons and unidentified remains in Canada, it is important to note that the MCSC *Child Search Network* is an identified program of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains. A signed memorandum of understanding exists between the two organizations with a goal to increase Canadian public awareness on issues related to missing children; assist in the prompt and safe return of missing children to their lawful guardians; and, contribute to national and international efforts to obtain support for a global cooperative response to the issues of missing children. Discussions are underway to determine how best to maximize and align the systems to further increase the efficiency of missing person investigations.