

I'M HAPPY BECAUSE I'M SAFE

<http://pauktuutit.ca/im-happy-because-im-safe/>

As a teen, you are probably on Facebook. It is important to know that you should have strong privacy settings. This is important to keep yourself and your connections such as your friends and family safe. To test if your accounts are public, search for your name or username to see what photos, information, or contacts show up.

Privacy Settings

The settings on most programs and devices look similar. They are usually represented by an icon that shows a gear, or tools like this:



Under 'settings' there are elements about the program that you can control. The look and feel of settings may change in Facebook, but the elements of privacy will remain.

Facebook Settings

To change the settings, click on the settings icon at the top of the screen (the gear icon in the top right corner). A menu will appear where you can select "settings."

Pauktuutit recommends that no "Public" selections be made in your Facebook Privacy Settings and Tools. Use "Friends" or "Friends of Friends" for your settings. They may look like this:



Privacy Settings and Tools			
Who can see my stuff?	Who can see your future posts?	Friends	Edit
	Review all your posts and things you're tagged in		Use Activity Log
	Limit the audience for posts you've shared with friends of friends or Public?		Limit Past Posts
Who can contact me?	Who can send you friend requests?	Friends of Friends	Edit
	Whose messages do I want filtered into my Inbox?	Strict Filtering	Edit
Who can look me up?	Who can look you up using the email address you provided?	Friends of Friends	Edit
	Who can look you up using the phone number you provided?	Friends	Edit
	Do you want other search engines to link to your timeline?	No	Edit

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Even though you have set the privacy settings on your Facebook account, it is still important that you only post and share things that you're proud of. Treat others as you would want to be treated and you'll never be embarrassed by saying mean words or sharing private information or photos.

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Online is permanent

Posting and sharing on the Internet is like getting a tattoo. It's forever. It's possible for it to be removed, but there are always traces left behind. There are many scandals that happen in real life because of what people post online. It's possible for someone to take a screen shot (a picture of what is visible on screen) of a post that can still be seen and shared after a post is taken down.

Anyone can search what you've done online. If your privacy settings are strong, you reduce what is visible. What if you are applying for a job? What if the boss searches you on Google? Would they see inappropriate photos of you that you posted? Would they see mean comments that you made? The Internet is public, and everything you do online should be considered public.

Protect your network of family and friends

If you are connected to one or one hundred people, you should do everything you can to protect yourself online. If you are connected to others, they should have strong privacy settings too. If someone you are connected to has an unsecure profile to the public, you may want to send them a private message. Below is something you might want to cut and paste into the message. Please feel free to make changes to the message to make it your own:

Hi,

I wanted to message you privately because I'm worried about how much information you share online. I searched your name and your unprotected Facebook profile pops up. I want you to be safe and happy! I hope you'll increase your privacy settings on your Facebook account so that you can be safe online, and not to be vulnerable to random people on the Internet. I've made my privacy settings stronger too, to protect our network of family and friends. It's easy to do, and I can help!

Be Proud!

You've done what you can to protect yourself online. Hopefully you have removed information from being public, and have deleted or removed personal photos and information too. You've asked others to help keep you and them safe online. Be proud! You are making smart choices. It's still okay to go to your parents or an adult you trust to talk. Keep questioning how privacy and safety can be strengthened online. If you see something that you don't like, flag it or report it.

Cybertip.ca !

It is operated by The Canadian Centre for Child Protection and gives safety information as well as handling tips online of reports of sexual exploitation of children.

https://www.cybertip.ca/app/en/Internet_safety

