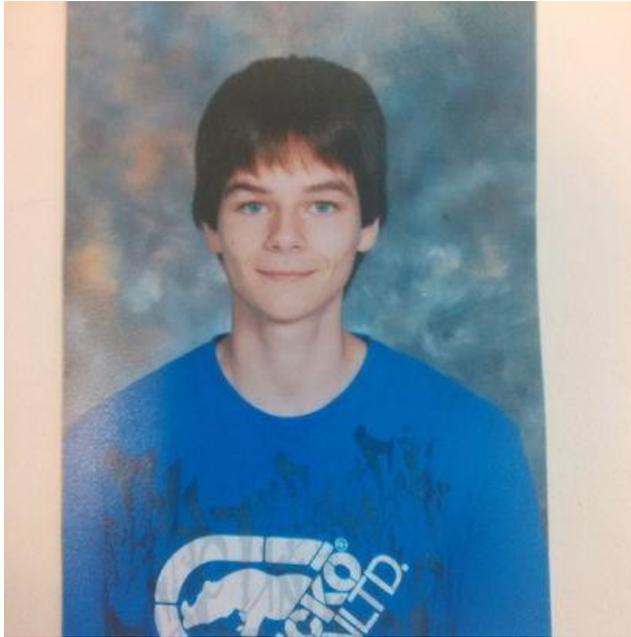




Teen commits suicide after Internet blackmail

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Maxime Forgues, 19, committed suicide after being blackmailed for \$4,000 online. (Handout)

MONTREAL -- A 19-year-old Quebec man committed suicide after being blackmailed for \$4,000 on social media by a bogus girl who convinced him to pose naked performing sex acts.

His parents tell QMI Agency that they are devastated and can't believe that Maxime Forgues "is no longer with us."

"Maxime wasn't suicidal," his mom Lise Thivierge said. "Everything just happened so quickly."

Forgues had just returned home to spend the summer with his family in Saint-Vallier, Que., near Quebec City and took life May 31 after being scammed and extorted on Facebook.

The scammers sent Forgues a Facebook friendship request, pretending to be a young girl.

"The 'girl' then asked Forgues to undress and to film himself performing sexual acts," Quebec Provincial Police investigator Pierre Samson said.

The scammers, who police believe are from the Ivory Coast, then told Forgues that the girl in the photo was a minor and that unless he paid them what they demanded they would send the video to all of his Facebook friends.

"The young man panicked," Samson said.

His parents found him dead the following day and his older brother also found menacing messages on Forgues' cellphone asking for money.

A note left on Forgues' computer said that he was "sorry to have let down his friends and family."

Thivierge says that the family is both "enraged and devastated."

She hopes that her son's death will make people question who they're talking to online, and serve as a reminder that a person's reputation can be destroyed in a instant.

"It's important to not accept Facebook requests from people you don't know," she said.



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