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**Protecting Canadian Children from Online Porn:**

**Putting Children’s Safety First: Vote Potentially Days Away!**

**Calling all parliamentarians to support Bill S-210**

**An Act to Restrict Young Persons’ Online Access to Sexually Explicit Material**

*[NCWC Spokeswoman Available Immediately by phone or Zoom/Online]*

Ottawa, June 5th, 2024

**Call to Action:**

The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC), with over 131 years of dedicated advocacy aimed at improving the quality of life for women, families, and society, is calling on parliamentarians to unanimously support Bill S-210. In keeping with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, this bill calls for the implementation of age-verification measures to protect children from access and exposure to pornographic content online.

**Is the Government Listening?**

Over 80 organizations across Canada have signed our [**OPEN LETTER**](https://ncwcanada.com/open-letter-to-support-bill-s210/) calling for support for S-210. Two recent Canadian polls have shown that an overwhelming majority of Canadians support age verification to protect children online. In a  [**Léger Poll**](https://bills210-lois210.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/16979-001-RAPPORT-Julie-Miville-Dechene.pdf) conducted in February of this year, 77% of respondents were favourable to age verification to access online porn. In an April 2024 [**Nanos Poll**, commissioned by the Globe and Mail](https://nanos.co/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2024-2571-Globe-March-Populated-Report-with-Tabs.pdf), 79% of respondents supported age verification to access online pornography. Canadians of all ages and provinces massively support these measures.

**Growing Concern:**

While the internet serves as a valuable tool for learning and communication, Canadian children are not protected from being exposed to or encountering pornography online. Research indicates that the average age of a child’s first exposure to adult content occurs between 9 and 11 years, with negative consequences for their psychosocial development. While parents are primarily responsible for shielding their children from harmful content, their resources and ability to monitor online activities are limited.

Unanimously passed by the Senate, and supported by the Conservative Party, the NDP, the Bloc Québécois, the Green Party and 15 Liberal MPs in the House of Commons, Bill S-210 calls for implementing robust age verification systems. All approved age-verification methods would protect user privacy and comply with all Canadian privacy laws.

**Aligning with Global Standards:**

The UK, France, Germany, Spain, Australia, and several U.S. states (most recently California) have or are in the process of adopting age verification measures to protect minors online. By supporting S-210, Canada can finally align itself with its peers and international standards, demonstrating a commitment to the safety and security of its youngest citizens, including notably the [**2.7 million Canadian children under the age of 11 who are active and with access to the internet**](https://www.statista.com/statistics/535086/number-children-using-internet-)**.**

Bill S-210 will soon face the final hurdle in the process of becoming law. We must unite to press the government to honour the concerns echoed by the majority of Canadians and adopt this bill. Ultimately, the questions to be asked are: Is the government out of step with the majority of Canadians on this issue? Will parliament act responsibly and listen to our voices and put our children’s safety first?

**Campaign Contact Details:**

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QUOTE: *"The NCWC is committed to advocating for the rights and safety of children, focusing on creating secure environments both online and offline. We urge lawmakers to recognize the urgent need for S-210 and the positive impact it will have on children's online safety. Implementing these measures is essential if Canada is to catch up with countries that have already established global standards. Canadian children deserve the same level of protection. S-210 will help ensure that our children are as safeguarded online as they are offline*.”- ***Penny Rankin VP of Children and Youth***

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**President: Marianne Wilkinson**

[**www.NCWCanada.com**](http://www.NCWCanada.com)

***The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) works in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, acknowledging Canada is the traditional territory of Indigenous and Metis People. We are grateful to join with others in peace and hope, advocating for an improved quality of life for women, children, families, and society.***

*Founded in 1893, the National Council of Women (NCWC) is a proud member of the International Council of Women. Accredited by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), the NCWC actively engages in and attends sessions of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.*