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February 16, 2024

REGION OF PEEL

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**From:** NCWC Contact <[contact@ncwcanada.org](mailto:contact@ncwcanada.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 16, 2024 8:50 AM  
**To:** Iannicca, Nando <[nando.iannicca@peelregion.ca](mailto:nando.iannicca@peelregion.ca)>  
**Cc:** President NCWC <[presncwc@gmail.com](mailto:presncwc@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Protecting Children Online Support for Bill S210



Dear Regional Chair Nando Iannicca,

I am writing on behalf of the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) seeking the support of the Peel Region for our **OPEN LETTER**. This letter urges members of the House of Commons to promptly pass **BILL S-210** that calls for age verification measures using certified third-party providers to lower the risk of premature and inadvertent exposure to pornography by children and youth.

The Bill, “an act to restrict young persons’ online access to sexually explicit material” has been passed by the Senate and is currently slated to be reviewed by the Public Safety and National Security Committee before returning to the House for its third and final reading/vote.

The UK, France, Spain, and Germany and numerous other jurisdictions have moved forward in addressing protection online, yet, despite the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) specifically calling for age verification measures to be implemented to protect children from age-inappropriate content, Canada has been slow to act.

We need diverse voices, including yours, to ensure not only the swift passage of Bill S210, but also the implementation of these measures. Every delay in addressing harms online directly impacts children's well-being.

Extract from the letter:

**Impact On Children and Youth**

The situation in Canada is critical with an **estimated 2.7 million Canadian children under the age of 11 accessing and active on the internet**. It's simple math to conclude that hundreds of thousands of our kids are accessing pornography online, whether they want to or not.

The recently released **2023 Children First Canada report** confirms the following findings which must be considered when examining solutions to protect Canadian children and youth.

Sexual internet luring of Canadian children has increased a 815% over the past five years.

REFERRAL TO \_\_\_\_\_  
RECOMMENDED \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTION REQUIRED \_\_\_\_\_  
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED  \_\_\_\_\_

51% have indicated feelings of depression.

39% of which also experienced anxiety.

Self-harm increased by 7.4% in one year alone, a rate that continues to increase.

Please read and (hopefully) sign our [OPEN LETTER](#). If you agree we would appreciate you sharing this initiative with those in your community and network that you believe would support this initiative.

If there are any further questions, please feel free to reach out or check out this website noting that the NCWC is joined by the **Canadian Centre for Child Protection** in "*strongly supporting the implementation of age verification requirements for websites and mobile apps that facilitate access to sexually explicit material*" : <https://bills210-lois210.ca/>. Please join our advocacy campaign to help make a difference. Protecting children and youth from explicit content is an urgent, shared responsibility. Parents cannot do this alone. We need action now in helping to put in place measures in the digital realm, that we already do in the so-called "real world".

Penny (Rankin)

VP Children and Youth

National Council of Women of Canada

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