

Fix Bill C-8, write your MP:

<https://action.openmedia.org/page/177914/action/1>



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# Is Bill C-8 Canada’s worst internet censorship bill?

**Bill C-8** was introduced in the Canadian Parliament in June 2025. and has reached second reading. Current status (Jan 2026): The bill is at consideration in committee in the House of Commons.

**Formal name:** “An Act respecting cyber security, amending the Telecommunications Act and making consequential amendments to other Acts



Read the text of Bill C-8 here:

<https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/45-1/bill/C-8/first-reading>

## Purpose and Scope of Bill C-8

*Bill C-8 seeks to amend the Telecommunications Act in order to strengthen cybersecurity by creating new offenses related to cybercrime, such as causing mischief in relation to computer systems and distributing malware (sections 430, 430.1, and 430.2, Criminal Code). The bill grants expansive powers to government agencies, potentially infringing upon individual liberties and privacy.*

## Key Provisions of Bill C-8

1. **Expansion of CRTC Jurisdiction:** Bill C-8 seeks to expand the CRTC's regulatory powers to include online platforms with more than 10 million unique monthly Canadian visitors, including social media sites, user-generated content platforms, and online streaming services.
2. **Harmful Content Removal:** The bill requires online platforms to remove content deemed harmful or illegal within 24 hours -- including content that incites violence, hatred, harassment, or violates privacy laws.
3. **Notice-and-Takedown System:** Bill C-8 establishes a notice-and-takedown system, where platforms are required to remove content expeditiously upon receipt of a notice from the CRTC or a user (Government of Canada, 2021).
4. **Record-Keeping Requirements:** Platforms would be obligated to maintain records of removed content and user information for at least one year, potentially infringing on users' privacy rights.
5. **Fines for Non-Compliance:** Bill C-8 proposes fines to businesses of up to \$10 million per day for non-compliance, and up to \$15 million for subsequent contraventions. This could incentivize self-censorship and create a chilling effect on free speech.

It could also place an undue burden on small and medium-sized online platforms, potentially driving them out of business or discouraging new entrants (JCCF, 2021).

An individual who does not comply, including by failing to keep the order secret, could face fines of up to **\$25,000** for the first contravention and **\$50,000** for subsequent contraventions.

## Potential Implications and Concerns

- **Broad and vague definitions** of “harmful content” raise serious concerns about government overreach and potential censorship.
- **Chilling Effect on Free Speech:** The record-keeping requirements and potential fines could create a chilling effect, leading to self-censorship and limiting users' ability to express themselves online.
- Bill C-8 would allow the minister to order telecommunications service providers like Telus, Bell and Rogers to **secretly cut someone off from their phone or Internet service**, without any safeguards to prevent this power from being used to silence political dissidents.
- The **orders would remain secret indefinitely**, with the minister required only to present an annual report to Parliament on the number of orders made and her opinion on their necessity, reasonableness and utility.
- Bill C-8 may permit the minister to **weaken** telecommunication companies' **encryption standards**, allowing for unconstitutional access to Canadians' private information, without a warrant.
- **Lack of Independent Oversight:** The bill does not include robust independent oversight mechanisms for the expanded powers granted to government agencies, raising concerns about accountability and transparency (Canadian Bar Association, 2025).

**Credit and thanks** -- Much of the info in this leaflet is from The Canadian Constitution Foundation, the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms, and OpenMedia.ca

<https://theccf.ca/stopbillc2c8/> and <https://www.jccf.ca/reports>

<https://theccf.ca/bill-c-8-would-allow-minister-to-secretly-cut-off-phone-internet-service-ccf-warns/>