

*“Since 2020, The GoC has introduced **eight bills** that collectively expand state control over Canada’s internet, including online speech, news distribution, and streaming services.” (JCCF, 2025)*

Bill C-10 (in the Senate as of Jun 2021) empowers the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to regulate, prioritize, or de-prioritize Canadians’ online speech as if it were professional broadcast programming.

Bill C-11 and Bill C-18 empower the CRTC to manipulate algorithms and force platforms to fund approved journalism. Pending bills (C-2, C-8, and C-9) would widen warrantless surveillance, let bureaucrats cut individuals off the internet, and lead to far more Canadians being prosecuted over “hate-propaganda.”

The CRTC, not Canadians, now decides what is discoverable, permissible, or even visible. When the Government of Canada (GoC) seizes the internet’s commanding heights, the casualty is not just privacy or competition – it is Canadian free speech rights. Unless C-11 and C-18 are repealed and the remaining bills defeated, digital expression will cease to be a right and instead will become a revocable licence issued by Ottawa.

The redefinition of hate and criminal expression

Together, these laws restrict Canadians’ Charter rights to free expression and privacy. They also impinge on open internet access, shifting power from Canadian users and platforms to unelected regulators. In particular:

Bill C-11 expanded CRTC regulatory oversight, treating online audiovisual content created by individual Canadians (including businesses, charities, advocacy groups) as “broadcasting.” It authorizes the CRTC to dictate algorithmic prioritization (in other words, discoverability – the ease with which users can find information), impose contributions, and access consumption data. This will very likely de-prioritize content dissenting from dominant and popular political narratives on numerous issues, and content critical of the government. This distorts the Internet’s goal of net neutrality, such that no content is favoured or censored. C-11 also authorizes a burdensome “streaming tax.”

Bills C-36 and C-63, whose contents could easily be re-introduced in Parliament, would have forced platforms to remove “harmful” content (and not just hate speech as defined by the Criminal Code) under threat of fines. As state-backed bodies

would decide the always difficult issue of what constitutes hate, there would be substantial risk of subjective enforcement, chilling legitimate debate on topics like religion, politics, sexuality, and history.

Bill C-18 reduced access to information. While the mainstream (government-funded) media’s resentment of platforms such as Meta using its content is understandable, its successful lobbying of the GoC had a perverse effect. Asked to pay for content, Meta chose instead to block Canadian news links entirely. A law intended to support Canadian journalism thereby limited Canadians’ incidental exposure to news via social media or search – ironically accelerating the decline of journalism and increasing reliance on government subsidies. C-18 now threatens media independence and by directing funds to programs such as “Changing Narratives Fund,” illustrate the hands-on approach the GoC takes to influencing Canadians’ opinions.

Bills in the pipeline for 2026:

If passed, **Bill C-2** would lead to erosion of privacy through warrantless access to internet service provider (ISP) data.

If passed, **Bill C-8** would require mandatory reporting and government access to private networks, and empowers the federal cabinet to kick individual Canadians off the internet. It would enable broad monitoring of digital activity without judicial oversight, deterring anonymous expression, association, and dissent.

If passed, **Bill C-9** would result in more Canadians being prosecuted over their social media posts and other speech, online and offline, by removing the restraint of Attorney General oversight. This provision, and others, will encourage self-censorship across Canada’s digital public square.

Canada’s freedom took centuries to establish. It is being dismantled quietly, one bill at a time. To preserve our democratic heritage, citizens must demand accountability, challenge these encroachments through the democratic process, and elect MPs who are committed to an open internet.

Credit and thanks -- all info on this page is from the report “Death by a Thousand Clicks: The Rise of Internet Censorship and Control in Canada” Copyright © Dec 15, 2025 by The Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms. <https://www.jccf.ca/reports-8>

The free speech of Canadians is under attack...

Here is some legislation YOU need to be aware of:

Bill C-2 : Strong Borders Act

STATUS: At second reading in the House of Commons (2025)

Bill C-8 : An Act respecting cyber security,

amending the Telecommunications Act and
making consequential amendments to other Act

STATUS: Consideration in committee in the House of Commons (2025)

Bill C-9: Combatting Hate Act

STATUS: Consideration in committee in the House of Commons (2025)

Bill C-10: An Act to amend the Broadcasting Act

and to make related and consequential amendments to other Acts

STATUS: Failed to pass – died on the Order Paper (2021)

Bill C-11: Online Streaming Act (a remake of Bill C-10)

STATUS: Became law, amending the Broadcasting Act (2023)

Bill C-18: Online News Act

STATUS: Bill C-18 became law (June 22, 2023)

Bill C-36: An Act to Amend the Criminal Code and the

Canadian Human Rights Act and to make related amendments
to another Act (hate propaganda, hate crimes and hate speech)

STATUS: Failed to pass – died on the Order Paper (2021)

Bill C-63: Online Harms Act

STATUS: died on order paper in 2025, but could be revived

To view the **text of these bills**,
take note of the year then, go to:

<https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bills>



Canadians



in Canada?

What you need to know