

## CCRC's CHILD RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT (CRIA)<sup>1</sup>

1. What is being proposed? (Name/description of the policy, legislation, program...). Note if it is policy, legislation, or other. Is it existing or new?
  - **Bill S-203: Protecting Young People from Exposure to Pornography**
2. What is the aim, objective or purpose of the proposal? (Who is intended to benefit? What outcomes are intended?)
  - **young people are the target**
  - **goal is to protect them from pornography**
3. Who initiated the proposal? (E.g., government department/ministry, Parliament or Legislature, provincial/territorial Child and Youth Advocate). Who will implement the proposal? (E.g., provinces/territories, local authorities, health/school boards...)
  - **The bill's sponsor is Sen. Julie Miville-Dechêne.**
  - **It's a Senate Bill, which can mean it may have some trouble getting to the House.**
4. Which articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child are most relevant?
  - Articles supported (+)
    - **Article 19 - 1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.**
  - Articles negatively affected (-)

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from UNICEF's CRIA Worksheet:

[http://criacommunity.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/TRAINING\\_UNICEF-Canada-CRIA-Worksheet-for-training.pdf](http://criacommunity.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/TRAINING_UNICEF-Canada-CRIA-Worksheet-for-training.pdf)

- *Article 16:*

- **1. No child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation.**
- **2. The child has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.**

- Articles uncertain in impact (?)

5. Does the proposal contravene any laws? (Such as federal/provincial/territorial domestic laws, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, other international human rights treaties and standards ratified/adopted by Canada...)

- a. **No I don't think so**

6. Which groups of children are affected by the proposal? (Consider: the direct and indirect impacts; the length of the impact – short, medium or long-term; the extent, significance and severity of the impact; and the probability of the impact)

- Potential positive impacts

- **The bill says the consumption of sexually explicit material by people under age 18 is associated with a range of harms, “including the development of pornography addiction, the reinforcement of gender stereotypes, and the development of attitudes favourable to harassment and violence — including sexual harassment and sexual violence — particularly against women.”**

[Senator Miville-Dechene](#)

- Potential negative impacts

- What measures may be needed to avoid or mitigate these negative impacts (or maximize positive impacts)?

7. Is the proposal consistent with evidentiary data readily accessible at this point? If not, why not?

- a. **Pornhub is already committed to removing videos that weren't uploaded to its' site by official content partners**

8. Has there been any consultation in the development of the proposal? (Note the groups consulted/affected). If so, what have they said?
- Children
  - Stakeholders
  - Action Canada:
    - *Concern about privacy rights: considerable implications with an age verification system*
    - *Perhaps a better approach would be to focus on comprehensive sex education, rather than criminalization.*
    - *There is concern that young people will be blocked from accessing sexuality info.*
    - *Evidence linking porn to VAW is mixed (more data?)*
  - Government departments/ministries
  - What conclusions have been reached? (Is the proposal the best way of achieving its aims, taking into account children's rights? Should other alternatives, including the do-nothing option, be considered? If so, what are those alternatives?)
  - **Seems to be an issue that is very much in the public eye right now. Not sure if this is the perfect bill, and it's hard to know if it will get passed. I think it raises some important questions.**
9. What recommendations should be made and who should be informed of them? (E.g., should relevant groups be consulted? If so, which groups should be consulted? Are there gaps in information? What additional documentation or evidence, if any, is needed?)
- a. **I think one thing we could do is write something about this for our website or comment on the new media bill that Minister Guillbeaut is apparently going to put forward. Just saying: we are following this bill, and also broader conversations about privacy & the internet.**
10. Should the proposal go ahead, with any mitigating measures and amendments? If yes, what are they, and why?

Child Rights Impact Assessment by:

Date:

More info:

<http://rightsofchildren.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/CCRC-Factsheet-on-CRIA.pdf>