

July 14, 2021

Senator Julie Miville-Dechene  
The Senate of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K1A 0A4

Dear Senator Miville-Dechene,

Congratulations on your success with the passage of the Bill S-203 through the readings in the Senate and onto the House of Commons. This is a great accomplishment for the benefit of the children of our country, and we are so grateful for all the hard work you and your staff have generously given to this issue.

The Sexual Exploitation in Canada Working Group is a body of The Canadian Council of Churches (CCC). Its purpose is to lead a shared church response to sexual exploitation, including pornography, as a justice and human rights issue that primarily affects women and children.

We fully support Bill S-203, an Act that will require the implementation of age verification online to protect minors from exposure to digital pornography. This bill aligns with Canada's commitment in ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child in December 1991 as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography from May 2000. It also aligns with the March 2, 2021 General comment No. 25 on children's rights in relation to the digital environment, in particular Section X11.

As the bill proceeds through the House of Commons, we offer you our support and willingness to do whatever we can to encourage the passage of the bill into law. If an election interferes, we will continue to support the passage of this bill.

We urge you to continue to be persistent and courageous as Parliament takes the necessary steps to transform Bill S-203 into law as soon as possible. Thank you for all your passion to make Canada a safer place for children today and in the future.

Sincerely yours,



Diane Dwarka, Co-Chair  
Sexual Exploitation Working Group



Deb Stanbury, Co-Chair  
Sexual Exploitation Working Group

Cc: Arnold Viersen, MP

*The CCC, founded in 1944, is a broad and inclusive ecumenical body, now representing 26 member churches including Anglican; Eastern and Roman Catholic; Evangelical; Free Church; Eastern and Oriental Orthodox; and Historic Protestant traditions. These member churches represent 13,500 worshipping communities and comprise 85% of the Christians in Canada.*