

Educators Know What's Needed: *Children's Online Safety for Canada*

On Tuesday, February 10th, we were horrified to learn about the tragedy in the Tumbler Ridge community and at the Tumbler Ridge Secondary School. During Covid, as a Retired Principal from District 61 (Greater Victoria), I mentored two new administrators, for two years, from District 59 (Peace River South), with one being the new Principal of Tumbler Ridge Secondary School. Naturally, this struck home and I have since reached out to them personally expressing my condolences and support if they need it.

Over the past week, I have written letters to three Ministers of the Parliament of Canada, to BC's Public Safety Representative and to the Liberal MP from Oak Bay-Gordon Head. The purpose of my letters is to raise a deep concern that Canada does not currently have legislation in place that protects children from online harms on the Internet. While this has been discussed at various levels in government, both provincially and federally, no legislation has been passed to date and, due to recent events last month in BC, it's time. Of interest, three westernized governments have taken bold steps to protect its children, including:

- *Australia in 2024/25 (Online Safety Act)*
- *the European Union in 2018 & 2022 (Digital Services Act & Better Internet for Kids); and*
- *the United Kingdom in 2023 (The Online Safety Act)*

With time being limited, Canada's legislators should be encouraged to utilize some of the blueprints that already exist (as per above) to write and pass our own legislation to be in place for the start of the new school year, in September 2026.

If you think this is important and timely too, please consider writing your local Member of Parliament to ask that Legislation for Children's Online Safety in Canada be passed before school reopens in September, 2026."

To write your Canadian Member of Parliament (MP), find them by postal code on the House of Commons website, then send a polite, concise email or postage-free letter. Focus on one issue, include your address, and request a specific action, using the "EPIC" format (Engage, Problem, Inform, Call to action)

How to Structure Your Message

- Introduction: State your name, address, and that you are a constituent.

- The Issue (EPIC): Explain the problem clearly, why it matters to your community, and suggest solutions.
- Action: Ask for a specific action (e.g., voting for a bill) and a response.
- Keep it Brief: Aim for 1–1.5 pages maximum.

How to Send It

- Email: Use the contact form or email address provided on the Our Commons website. <https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en>
- Mail (No Postage Required): Mail letters to:

Name of Member of Parliament
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K1A 0A6

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