



Sent via e-mail

12 June 2024

An Open Letter to all Federal Members of Parliament in the Archdiocese of Toronto,

Thank you for your commitment to public service and be assured of my prayers for you and all those elected to serve as our federal representatives. As a Member of Parliament in the boundaries of the Archdiocese of Toronto, which comprises close to two million Catholics, I wanted to draw your attention to Bill S-210, (An Act to restrict young persons' online access to sexually explicit material) and respectfully ask you to consider supporting this legislation.

It should be distressing and appalling to all of us considering the harmful, degrading sexually explicit online content to which all are exposed and most especially our youth. At present and most regrettably, young people can easily access pornography on the Internet, which can lead down a dark and destructive path, spiritually damaging, normalizing sexual violence and significantly impacting their mental health and brain development. We should also be deeply concerned that the notion of healthy and loving relationships are significantly compromised for all persons and especially for young people exposed to pornography in their formative years.

Given the vast accessibility of pornography sites online, an affront to basic human decency and moral integrity, those posting material should be responsible for ensuring that explicit content cannot be accessed by minors throughout Canada. This bill will ensure providers are held accountable, using the appropriate technology to assure age verification while also protecting the privacy of users. This piece of legislation would be a step forward as we look to build a society which is free from such detrimental and unethical practices, protected against a toxic industry which normalizes the degradation of human persons, desensitizes the spirit and celebrates violence and immorality. We look to a future imbued with a robust moral fabric which allows for individuals, families and communities to thrive, to grow and to lead lives of fulfillment and where our children are kept safe from such addictive and noxious influences.



I am pleased to see support among members from all parties for Bill S-210. As you likely know, the legislation has passed second reading with committee meetings held last month as the bill makes its way through the legislative process.

Once again, I would ask you to consider supporting this important legislation that will provide protection for our young people and help foster a wholesome, caring, responsible, healthy and nurturing environment for them to flourish and thrive for years to come. Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francis Leo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning of the first letter.

Most Rev. Francis Leo
Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto