

-  **Braid: Notley comes out hard against arena deal, alleging hidden costs**
TRENDING 🔥
-  **Construction to begin this year on major Deerfoot Trail improvements**
TRENDING 🔥
-  **The comeback queens: Rachel Notley vs Danielle Smith in the battle for...**
TRENDING 🔥
- 

Politics / News

Senators won't 'insist' on user content exemption in online streaming bill

The Liberal government has said it doesn't intend for user content to be captured by the Bill C-11

Anja Karadeglija

Published Apr 26, 2023 · Last updated 19 hours ago · 3 minute read

[Join the conversation](#)

Minister of Canadian Heritage, Pablo Rodriguez, holds a press conference regarding the introduction of Bill C-18, the Online News Act, on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. PHOTO BY SEAN KILPATRICK /The Canadian Press

As debate on Bill C-11 in the Senate came to a conclusion Wednesday evening, senators chose not to push back against the Liberal government's rejection of a previous Senate amendment to explicitly exempt user content from the bill.

Senators are scheduled to have their final vote on the bill late Thursday afternoon and are expected to vote in favour of passing it. That vote will be the last step in the legislative process before the bill receives royal assent and becomes law.

CALGARY HERALD HEADLINE NEWS

Calgary Herald Headline News

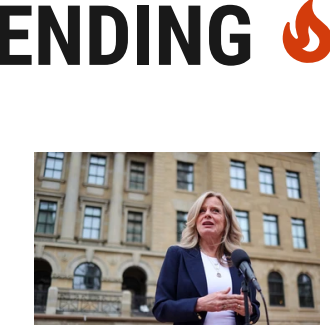




Sign up to receive daily headline news from the Calgary Herald, a division of Postmedia Network Inc.

Email Address

Sign Up

By clicking on the sign up button you consent to receive the above newsletter from Postmedia Network Inc. You may unsubscribe any time by clicking on the unsubscribe link at the bottom of our emails or any newsletter. Postmedia Network Inc. | 365 Bloor Street East, Toronto, Ontario, M4W 3L4 | 416-383-2300

TRENDING 🔥

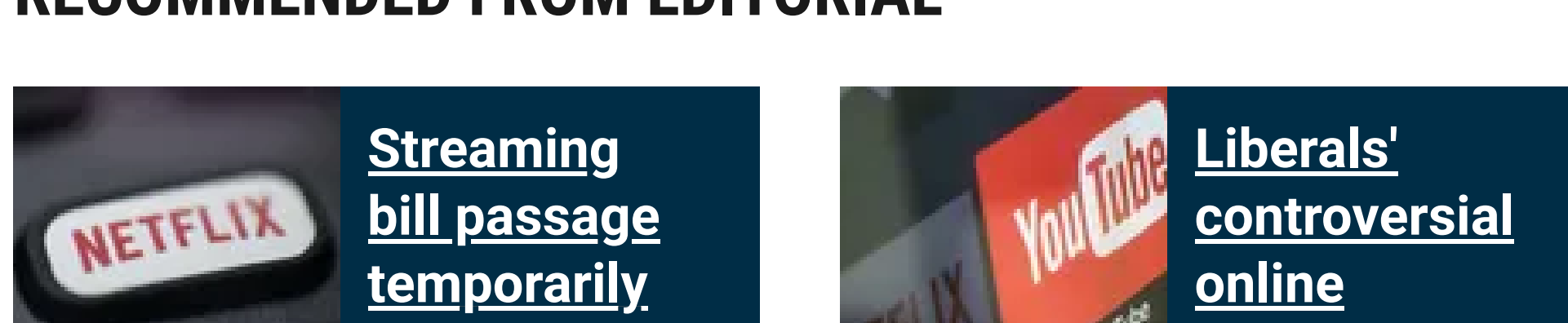
-  **Braid: Notley comes out hard against arena deal, alleging...**
-  **Construction to begin this year on major Deerfoot Trail...**
-  **The comeback queens: Rachel Notley vs Danielle Smith i...**
-  **Global retailer Uniqlo set to open a store at Chinook Centre...**
-  **Calgary, province, Flames ownership ink \$1.22B deal for...**

The Liberal government has said it doesn't intend for user content — such as videos posted on YouTube by digital creators and everyday Canadians — to be captured by the online streaming law, but has rejected the Senate amendment that would have enshrined that exemption in the bill itself.

On Wednesday, Senators voted 47-17 against an amendment that would have seen the Senate "insist" on the exemption and other changes the Red Chamber previously made to the legislation.

Conservative Senator Leo Housakos spoke in favour of pushing back. "The fact that we've spent so much time and deliberation on this legislation isn't justification to now pack it in after one round," he said.

RECOMMENDED FROM EDITORIAL



"If there's any role for this institution when something is deeply flawed, it's our job to fix it, it's our job to push back."

Sen. Don Plett, leader of the opposition in the Senate, said all the user content amendment would have done is kept the government at their word.

"All that the Senate did was to take the government up on its claim and to test its commitment. But when put to the test, the government failed. It effectively declared that it would continue to reserve the right to permit the CRTC to regulate user-generated content if required," he said.

The extent of the CRTC's powers over user-generated content has been at the crux of ongoing controversy over the bill.

Bill C-11 aims to bring streaming platforms like Netflix and YouTube into the regulatory system that traditional broadcasters and TV providers participate in. For example, broadcasters spend 30 per cent of their revenue on Canadian content, and cable and satellite TV providers contribute five per cent of their revenues.

The details of how to regulate digital platforms will be up to the CRTC, which, once the bill becomes law, will launch a public consultation on how to implement it. The Liberal government will also issue a document called a policy direction that will give the CRTC more specific instructions on how it should go about that work.

Under the bill, the CRTC won't have the power to control what Canadians post or choose to watch online, but it will have regulatory authority over recommendations — the movies, TV shows, videos and music platforms like Netflix or Spotify suggest to their users. Without an amendment to specifically exclude it, that power will extend to user content on platforms like YouTube or TikTok.

When the bill went back to the Senate, Sen. Marc Gold, the representative of the government in the Senate, introduced a motion stating that is the government's "stated intent that Bill C-11 will not apply to user-generated digital content." Senators then changed "stated intent" to "public assurance."

The idea behind the government giving the CRTC authority over "discoverability" is that it could direct digital platforms to promote Canadian content in their recommendations. But digital creators have warned such measures could backfire and hurt their visibility in, and revenue from, markets outside Canada.

Housakos said the bill "puts the livelihood of hundreds of thousands of Canadian digital creators at risk, because of what it will do to their global rankings."

COMMENTS

Postmedia is committed to maintaining a lively but civil forum for our articles. Comments encourage all readers to share their views on our discussions. Comments may take up to an hour for moderation before appearing on the site. We ask you to keep your comments relevant and respectful. We have enabled email notifications—you will now receive an email if you receive a reply to your comment, there is an update to a comment thread you follow or if a user you follow comments. Visit our [Community Guidelines](#) for more information and details on how to adjust your [email settings](#).

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

RELATED STORIES

Controversial online streaming bill on the verge of passing in Senate

That will be the last step before receiving royal assent and becoming law, 2½2...

2 days, 3 hours ago Politics



Restricting news links to Canadian users remains on table as Google opposes C-18

6 days, 20 hours ago National



'Can't make this stuff up:' Opposition MPs criticize former industry minister joining Rogers

Last week, Rogers, one of Canada's big three wireless carriers, announced...

2 days, 18 hours ago Politics



Barely one-third of striking PSAC members cast ballot in vote riddled with 'major irregularities': ruling

6 days, 3 hours ago News



German plane airlifts 58 Canadians from Sudan, as Canadian plane readies for more

2 days, 22 hours ago National



LATEST NATIONAL STORIES

THIS WEEK IN FLYERS