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Does the Online Harms Act go too far?

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The federal government's latest effort to regulate speech on the internet was met with relief from parents who've long advocated for a safer space online for their children, but with alarm from free speech advocates who believe the government's bill goes too far.

This week on "It's Political," we dig into the Online Harms Act with a number of experts, discussing what it contains and what the controversies are about. Then we sit down with Justice Minister Arif Virani.

In this episode: Federal Justice Minister Arif Virani, as well as the Center for Media, Technology and Democracy founding director and McGill University associate professor Taylor Owen, the Canadian Constitution Foundation litigation director Christine Van Geyn, University of Calgary associate professor and Canada research chair in cybersecurity law Emily Laidlaw, the Canadian Center for Child Protection's executive director Lianna McDonald, University of Ottawa professor and Canada research chair in internet and e-commerce law Michael Geist, former Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications

Commission vice chair and Macdonald-Laurier Institute senior fellow Peter Menzies, University of Windsor law professor Richard Moon, the Canadian Race Relations Foundation's CEO Mohammed Hashim, B.C. Civil Liberties Association staff counsel Safiyya Ahmad, and NDP House leader Peter Julian. Hosted by Althia Raj.

Some of the clips this week were sourced from CPAC, CTV, Global, The Canadian Press Gallery, CBC, City, The Rebel's YouTube and Privacy Lawyer David Fraser's YouTube.

Listen here and follow or subscribe at Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, Google Podcasts or wherever you listen to your favourite podcasts.

This episode of "It's Political" was produced by Michal Stein and Althia Raj, and mixed by Kevin Sexton. Our theme music is by Isaac Joel.

Suggested readings:

Bill C-63 An Act to enact the Online Harms Act

Trudeau government's contentious online harms bill would regulate dangerous content on the internet

Justice Minister Arif Virani introduced the Online Harms Bill. He joins "It's Political."

'Government gone overboard': Experts concerned by Ottawa's attempts to rein in hate speech

It's time to table the Online Harms Bill

Name-calling won't silence Justin Trudeau's critics. Maybe it's time for his Liberals to stop lecturing and start listening

Michael Geist: Why the Criminal Code and Human Rights Act Provisions Should Be Removed from the Online Harms Act

This article appeared in The Star (Toronto, ON) (web site)

https://www.thestar.com/podcasts/its-political/does-the-online-harms-act-go-to-o-far/article_c469079e-f2d0-11ee-8ac9-ff58331f333e.html