

# Should Canada Ban Youth from Social Media?

## No

Here are some reasons why people might argue that Canada **should not** ban youth from having accounts on social media.

### **Youth lose access to their communities**

Many youth find community through social media, particularly when they live in rural areas, and/or when parts of their identity are not represented in nearby communities. For instance, youth who identify as 2SLGBTQ+ often rely on online communities accessed through social media platforms as a safe and affirming space, especially those who face discrimination in their households or communities.

### **Youth will turn to less regulated platforms**

If youth are banned from accessing the most popular platforms, social media use will not go away. Instead, youth will turn to other, less regulated and thus riskier platforms, with greater potential for harm. The social media platforms that are the most popular - and so the ones most likely to be banned - also happen to be the platforms with more advanced safeguards in place. This includes content-moderation and tools that aim to protect users from harmful conduct, such as cyberbullying and predators online.

### **We should be treating the issues at their roots**

Instead of introducing a blanket ban on social media, we should be educating young people on responsible and safe social media use, so that they are able to receive the benefits of these platforms while avoiding the harms. Moreover, the issues youth face on social media are not unique to them. For example, if the problem is that social media apps are addictive, we should be treating the issue at its root and holding these platforms accountable for fueling addiction for all users through their design.

### **Read More:**

- ['I would not have made it out': Why online spaces matter for 2SLGBTQ+ youth\\*](#) | CBC
- [Canada is poised to follow Australia's under-16 social media ban. Is this a good idea?\\*](#) | Toronto Star
- [Australia: Government should strictly regulate social media platforms, not ban children and young people](#) | Amnesty International

*\*Content warning: includes mention of suicide*