



**For Immediate Release**

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**CCNC-SJ Submissions to the Virtual Roundtable with Minister Steven Guilbeault on proposed regulations for social media platforms on countering online harm**

December 9 /2020 /Toronto / The Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice has made submissions to the Canadian Government calling for increased regulation of social media, as part of being invited by Heritage Minister Steven Guilbeault to the roundtable on the regulation of social media and online harms on December 10, 2020.

CCNC-SJ takes the position that social media companies must be regulated and held responsible for hate speech made by users on their platforms. See CCNC-SJ's full submissions at <https://ccncsj.ca/ccnc-sj-submissions-to-the-virtual-roundtable-with-minister-steven-guilbeault-on-proposed-regulations-for-social-media-platforms-on-countering-online-harm/>.

In order to fight the spread of hate speech to avoid further harm to disadvantaged communities, regulatory legislation must achieve the following:

- Provide a robust definition of hate speech that encapsulates cases of veiled racism and fake news and does not have an intent requirement.
- That social media companies be compelled to remove hate speech expeditiously.
- That an AI (artificial intelligence) or otherwise automated identification and notification tool be developed and adopted to flag hate speech for removal.
- That a tribunal be set up to make determinations of whether content constitutes hate speech and is empowered to compel the removal or reupload of content.
- That penalties be sufficiently high to discourage social media companies from allowing harmful material on their platforms, as opposed to a “cost of business”.
- That at least some portion of those penalties be provided to injured parties and communities.

Ryan Chan, CCNC-SJ's Project Lead, Social Media, says “Social media companies are much more than giant speaker phones. They play an active role in spreading online hate and have proven time and again that they cannot be left to police themselves. Government regulation is desperately needed, and it is desperately needed now.”

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