

We cannot not allow proposals that would raise the price of Internet access. Minister Joly must take the Internet Tax off the table. There are better ways to promote quality content in the 21st century.

An #InternetTax is an arbitrary and ineffective way to promote Canadian culture. It will raise Internet prices and will work to keep more Canadians offline.

Canadians already pay some of the highest prices in the industrialized world for mediocre service. Nearly 1 in 5 Canadians has no Internet connection in their home. An Internet Tax will only deepen this digital divide.

Getting more Canadian households and businesses online drives growth, investment, and jobs. An Internet Tax keeps Canadians offline, and therefore undermines Innovation, Science, and Economic Development's (ISED) Innovation Agenda.

Canadians will hate this! This idea is worse than the Netflix Tax, which Minister Joly has already taken off the table. The Internet Tax should be treated no different.

The Internet Tax creates market uncertainty, which makes consumers and industry stakeholders uneasy. This does not "foster a strong investment environment" which ISED's has been mandated to do by the Prime Minister.

The Internet Tax will disproportionately impact indigenous communities, which is at odds with the government's commitment towards reconciliation.

Raising Internet prices undermines the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission's (CRTC) nearly two-year-long Review of basic telecommunications services, which assessed barriers to Internet access in Canada. Their findings? The rent is too damned high when it comes to Internet prices.

Here is some background reading on the subject:

<http://www.michaelgeist.ca/2016/10/why-copyright-reform-wont-solve-the-troubles-faced-by-the-newspaper-industry/>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/rob-commentary/new-digital-taxes-may-be-the-future-of-cancon/article32320580/>

<http://business.financialpost.com/fp-comment/stop-the-federal-government-before-it-taxes-everything-on-the-internet>

<http://www.cbc.ca/beta/news/business/internet-canadian-content-government-1.3810251>

<http://www.michaelgeist.ca/2016/10/beyond-a-netflix-tax-why-melanie-jolys-comments-suggest-regulation-of-internet-services-are-coming/>

<http://www.michaelgeist.ca/2016/10/no-minister-joly-the-internet-is-much-more-than-just-movies-tv-and-music/>

<http://motherboard.vice.com/read/a-new-internet-tax-in-canada-would-keep-indigenous-people-offline>

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/kcyna/6-reasons-an-ainternet-taxa-would-be-a-bad-ide-2ok0k>

<http://www.michaelgeist.ca/2016/11/the-billion-dollar-question-how-to-pay-for-melanie-jolys-digital-cancon-plans/>

<http://www.thewirereport.ca/news/2016/11/17/isp-tax-possible-as-part-of-cancon-review-joly-says/31511>

<http://www.michaelgeist.ca/2016/11/why-navdeep-bains-and-melanie-joly-are-on-a-collision-course-on-digital-policy/>

<https://openmedia.org/en/why-wont-minister-joly-and-minister-bains-take-internet-tax-table>