

INTRODUCTION TO BILL C-15

Send a message to your MP

Bill C-15, *the Act to implement certain provisions of the 2025 Budget*, is touted as a finance tool. It is anything but. It threatens the rights of Canadians, First Nations and future generations to health and safety, endangers our natural environments and our legal protections.

Hidden in Bill C-15, under the guise of modifications to the existing Red Tape Reduction Act, are provisions that would allow the government's Ministers to exempt *any* person or organization from the application of *any* provision of any federal law, other than the Criminal Code. It could apply to projects or activities they consider "encouraging innovation, competitiveness or economic growth", if the Minister is of the opinion, it is "in the public interest".

Ministers would have radically new discretionary power to decide when and how federal legislation applies, and to whom. Exemptions could be made to environmental protection, labor law, access to information and privacy, safety of food and drugs, competition, and many more areas. Industries such as nuclear, oil and gas, chemical, mining and pharmaceutical industries could stand to benefit from such exemptions.

The Liberal government and the Conservatives are said to be negotiating compromises and amendments to the government's C-15 budget bill behind the scenes, which might end up being limited to redrafting some wording or adding a few symbolic guardrails. That is not enough!

C-15's proposed modifications to the Red Tape Reduction Act (sections 203 to 209, Part 5, Division 5) are too unacceptable to just be "fixed". They must be removed.