



Bills C-2 & C-12 Will Make Canada's Unregulated Drug Crisis Worse

WHAT ARE C-2 AND C-12?

C-2 and C-12 are two giant, complex, and dangerous pieces of legislation proposed by the federal government in 2025. More than 300 civil society groups have called for their full withdrawal.

BILL C-2



An omnibus bill that expands authoritarian control and government surveillance powers, imposes sweeping restrictions on migration and people seeking asylum, and fast-tracks drug and precursor scheduling to dangerous effect—all while avoiding proper parliamentary and public scrutiny. The federal government introduced C-2 in June 2025, and it was met with widespread public criticism.

BILL C-12

To try to skirt around the overwhelming opposition to C-2, the government repackaged it into a second, almost-identical piece of legislation: Bill C-12. This new proposed legislation is a near mirror image of C-2, but with some provisions related to surveillance and privacy removed. Both C-2 and C-12 are now being pushed through parliamentary process; both must be withdrawn.

THE PROBLEM:

C-2 and C-12 are rife with egregious expansions to government power without accountability, around immigration, surveillance and privacy. Both double down on a failed enforcement-first approach to drug policy, ignoring decades of evidence showing that criminalization and prohibition are driving the current toxic unregulated drug crisis.

The bottom line: C-2 and C-12 will make the toxic unregulated drug crisis worse while wasting resources that should go to proven solutions like housing, healthcare, and harm reduction.

WHY DRUG POLICY EXPERTS ARE ALARMED

MAKES THE DRUG SUPPLY MORE DANGEROUS

When governments restrict or “schedule” precursors (chemicals that can be used to make illegal drugs), markets adapt:

- Switching to alternatives that can carry unknown health risks
- Developing new production methods
- Creating more concentrated or unpredictable drugs

History Repeats: Past restrictions resulted in more potent, less predictable substances entering the market to meet demand. For example, restrictions on heroin incentivized illegal fentanyl production and distribution. C-2/C-12's accelerated scheduling will trigger faster market innovations, making the already-lethal drug supply even more volatile and deadly.

REGULATORY CONFUSION & BURDEN

- Current drug laws are already confusing and overly complex—Bills C-2 and C-12 exacerbate this
- Unfairly shifts the burden of navigating rapidly changing regulations onto businesses, researchers, and industry
- Creates complex regulatory framework with severe criminal penalties for non-compliance

HURTS LEGITIMATE BUSINESS & RESEARCH

Many precursors have legal uses, like water treatment, agriculture & research. Under C-2/C-12, precursors can be scheduled with little notice. This threatens innovation and particularly burdens small businesses with limited resources to keep up with rapidly-changing regulations. Organizations may face heavy compliance costs or unknowingly break new laws, facing criminal charges (of up to 10 years) for innocent mistakes.

Research and Innovation under threat:

- Universities and researchers may face barriers accessing materials
- Regulatory uncertainty may stifle innovation
- Supply chain disruptions and changing regulations could drive increased costs for manufacturers and consumers

WE NEED REAL SOLUTIONS

Instead of ineffective enforcement, evidence shows we need:

- ✓ Regulated, legal production of substances to increase safety
- ✓ Affordable housing and liveable incomes
- ✓ Universal healthcare that meets the needs of people
- ✓ Harm reduction and voluntary treatment expansion

THE TRACK RECORD OF ENFORCEMENT

100+ years of criminalization have:

- ✗ Failed to reduce drug use
- ✗ Made the drug supply volatile and unpredictable, increasing risks
- ✗ Disproportionately harmed marginalized communities
- ✗ Wasted billions in public resources
- ✗ Driven the current toxic unregulated drug crisis

IF WE FOLLOW THE EVIDENCE, WE CAN



Reduce overdose deaths and injuries



Connect people to healthcare, treatment and housing



Respect human rights



Improve community safety



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Contact your MP and Senator. Ask them to:

- Oppose Bill C-2 and C-12 at every stage
- Demand evidence-based drug policy
- Support investment in health and housing

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