

June 5, 2008

The Honourable Jim Prentice, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Industry
5th Floor, West Tower, C.D. Howe Bldg.
235 Queen St.
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H5

The Honourable Josée Verner, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Canadian Heritage, Status of
Women and Official Languages
25 Eddy St.
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0M5

Dear Ministers:

Subject: Canadian Copyright Policy

We are a coalition of Canadian consumer advocates representing thousands of consumers across Canada. Members of our coalition include Union des consommateurs, Option consommateurs, the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC), Consumers Council of Canada, the Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic (CIPPIC), and Online Rights Canada (OnlineRights.ca). We write to you in support of copyright policies that serve Canada's interests first.

We understand that the Canadian government will soon introduce legislation amending Canada's copyright laws in ways that will have significant effects on Canadian consumers. Although your government has consulted widely with American trade representatives and foreign entertainment industry lobbyists, we are disappointed that you have not chosen to consult with Canadian consumer groups. We take this opportunity, then, to provide you with our views on copyright policies that put Canada's interests first. These views may be summarized by the following principles:

- Copyright laws should seek to protect creators, the public, and the public interest, not the technology that limits access to content.
- Adapting copyright laws to the modern world and to modern technologies should in no way limit or undermine existing consumer rights or constrain common consumer practices.
- Technologies that undermine existing consumer rights should be illegal, not protected.
- Consumers will never accept an unbalanced law modeled on the American *Digital Millennium Copyright Act*, which puts industry first.

In our view, any Canadian copyright legislation, to advance Canada's interests, must embody these principles.

We look forward to reviewing the coming legislation and participating with other stakeholders before Committee to ensure that Canada's copyright laws reflect Canadians' interests.

Sincerely,

Union des consommateurs
Option consommateurs
Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC)
Consumers Council of Canada
Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic (CIPPIC)
Online Rights Canada

cc: Susan Bincoletto, Director General, Marketplace Framework Policy Branch
Industry Canada

cc: Barbara Motzney, Director General, Copyright Policy, Department of Canadian
Heritage