

KEEP CANADA ON OUR SCREENS

VOTE CANADIAN CULTURE OCTOBER 21

Delivering a made-in-Canada copyright solution

Question for Candidates:

Will you strengthen Canada's copyright laws by delivering a made-in-Canada copyright solution that respects audiovisual performers and ensures we are properly compensated for our work, including extending economic and moral rights to audiovisual artists?

The Challenge:

The Copyright Act has a material impact on a performer's ability to sustain a living and contribute to Canadian culture. New technology has dramatically changed the creative industries, and the Act needs to reflect the new economic reality in which artists operate. While it's easier than ever to have our work seen or heard by people around the world, it's harder than ever to be properly compensated for this work. Canada's Copyright Act provides minimal rights to performers in audiovisual works, which means we don't receive the same legislated protection as other creators and artists.

ACTRA's Recommendation:

Strengthen copyright legislation to ensure performers are paid for our work throughout its use by:

- Extending moral and economic rights to audiovisual performers in Canada's Copyright Act, which would meet the global standard for audiovisual performances and allow performers to uphold our reputations by preventing unauthorized distortions or modifications of our performances;
- Extending the private copying regime to audiovisual performances and devices so audiovisual performers are compensated when copies of their audiovisual work are made; and
- Protecting Canadian artists from digital theft.

Moral rights would provide performers with basic rights as artists to have our name associated with our work and to object to any modification or change that would injure our reputation. Economic rights would provide long-term security for performers in the digital shift.

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology recommended the federal government "should extensively assess the opportunity to extend the private copying regime to digital devices" as well as undertake a study of private copying regimes in other countries.

The jobs of hundreds of thousands of Canadians who work in the creative sector are at risk as a result of increasing online piracy - everyone from songwriters to set builders. Payments from legitimate streaming services, broadcasters, distributors, and exhibitors help support these creators.