



Canadian Teachers' Federation

Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants

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January 30, 2008

Hon. Jim Prentice  
Minister of Industry  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Hon. Josée Verner  
Minister of Canadian Heritage, Status of Women  
and Official Languages  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Ministers Prentice and Verner:

The return of Parliament will most certainly be accompanied by continuing discussions on copyright and the possibility of new legislation.

The Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF), in concert with other organizations within the education community, has been actively lobbying for an amendment to the legislation that would permit teachers and students to access freely available Internet material for education purposes. This amendment is critically important. Access to knowledge is the key to building a socially prosperous and economically sound society. The amendment would ensure that students and teachers can benefit from a rich and varied source of information.

While permitting the educational use of publicly available Internet material, the proposed amendment will also clarify and enhance respect for copyright ownership on the Internet. It will apply exclusively to participants in a program of learning taking place under the authority of an educational institution, and strictly to the use of publicly available material on the Internet. It will exclude any Internet material for which the creator has indicated that payment is required.

I am writing to reiterate our position on this key component of the copyright debate and to indicate that Canadian teachers are looking forward to a resolution of this issue. The CTF is the national voice for teachers on education and related social issues. Our membership includes teacher organizations in every province and territory representing 220,000 teachers across the country.

I would be happy to meet with you or representatives of your office to discuss the matter further. If you would like to receive additional information, or a copy of the actual text of the amendment, please contact Mr. John Staple, CTF Deputy Secretary General.

Sincerely,

Emily Noble  
CTF President

The attached letter was sent to the following:

La lettre ci-jointe a été envoyée aux personnes suivantes :

Rt. Hon Stephen Harper, Prime Minister

Colin Carrie  
Jim Abbott  
Hon. David Emerson  
Hon. Bev Oda  
L'hon. Maxine Bernier  
Hon. Loyola Hearn  
Hon. Peter MacKay  
Hon. Peter Van Loan  
Hon. Rob Nicholson  
Hon. Diane Finley  
Gary Schellenberger, MP  
Sylvie Boucher (députée)  
Chris Warkentin, MP  
Ed Fast, MP  
Joy Smith, MP  
Brian Fitzpatrick, MP  
James Rajotte, MP  
Russ Hiebert, MP  
Scott Reid, MP  
Bill Siksay, MP  
Peggy Nash, MP  
Charlie Angus, MP  
Brian Masse, MP  
Hon. Jack Layton, MP  
Libby Davis, MP  
Alexa McDonough, MP  
Yvon Godin (député)

Denise Savoie (députée)  
Olivia Chow, MP  
L'hon. Stéphane Dion  
Hon. Scott Brison  
Mauril Belanger (député)  
Hon. Ralph Goodale  
Francis Scarpaleggia, MP  
Hon. Geoff Regan  
Hon. Joe Volpe  
Jean Lapierre (député)  
Paul Zed, MP  
John Maloney, MP  
Michael Savage, MP  
Brent St. Denis, MP  
Bonnie Brown, MP  
L'hon. Lucienne Robillard  
Raymondo Folco (députée)  
Ruby Dhalla, MP  
Bryon Wilfert, MP  
Tina Keeper, MP  
Scott Simms, MP  
Mako Kotto (député)  
Paule Brunelle (députée)  
Paul Crête (député)  
Diane Bourgeois (députée)  
Jean Yves Roy (député)  
Luc Malo (député)

