Canadian artists stump for tougher copyright laws

Canwest News Service
Published: Monday, January 21, 2008

In anticipation of a new federal copyright law, an alliance representing writers, musicians and actors has released a platform detailing what they think is best for Canadian artists.

The Creators Copyright Coalition’s report, released Monday, calls for artists to be given the sole right "to produce or reproduce the work or any substantial part thereof in any material form" and "to transfer the work or any substantial part thereof to another medium."

The group, which includes the Writers Guild of Canada and the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists, also wants Internet service providers (ISPs) to "share in the responsibility" for their online content, and to "share liability" when copyright infringement occurs on their networks.

"Creators have been waiting far too long for copyright reform. It is time to protect the rights of all authors and performers in the Internet age," Bill Freeman, chair of the coalition said in a statement.

The government's new copyright law proposal was expected to be introduced before the new year, but was stalled by protests and concerns from various interest groups, including the Fair Copyright for Canada Facebook group set-up by Michael Geist, a University of Ottawa law professor (and copyright law activist).

Many esteemed artists and coalition members have spoken out in support of the platform.

"While the digital age has offered music creators wonderful opportunities, it is clear that the rampant unpaid online consumption of music and other content has had a
devastating effect. We need up-to-date copyright legislation that will protect the value of our rights, ensuring us a future where creators will be compensated for the use and enjoyment of our work,” songwriter Stan Meissner said in a statement.

---

**More From National Post**

- The Telecom Trotskyites
  National Post - Thursday, Dec. 20, 2007
- Copyright might follow U.S. model
  National Post - Sunday, Oct. 21, 2007
- Online anonymity a thing of the past
  National Post - Thursday, Dec. 6, 2007
- The costly reality of fakes
  National Post - Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2007
- You are tagged

**More From the Web**

- Locked out?
  BBC News - Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2008
- Platform spells out artists’ wish list
  Victoria Times-Colonist - Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2008
- DST Systems, Inc. Announces Fourth Quarter 2007 Financial Results and Increased Share Repurchase Authorization
  Yahoo! Finance - Monday, Jan. 21, 2008
- Canadian Creatives Call For Copyright Reform
  Radio & Records - Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2008
- Frith exiting Canada distrib group
- Calgarian charged with video piracy
  Edmonton Journal - Friday, Jan. 18, 2008
- Canadian prof offers eight-point copyright reform plan
  Ars Technica - Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008
- Outlook 2008 (9 sectors to watch):
  Entertainment
  Canadian Business Online - Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008
- Canadian Privacy Commissioner rejects DRM: don't give spyware legal protection!
  BoingBoing - Monday, Jan. 21, 2008

---

© 2008 Canwest Interactive, a division of Canwest Publishing Inc. All rights reserved. Unauthorized distribution, transmission or republication strictly prohibited.