



ACTRA

Hon. Liza Frulla
Minister of Canadian Heritage and
Minister responsible for the Status of Women
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Frulla,

On behalf of the 23,000 members of the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists (ACTRA), I'd like to thank you for the strong initiative you have shown in improving performers' rights in copyright. The Government's statement on copyright reform tabled last Thursday is welcome news to all of Canada's professional performers, particularly those whose performances are recorded on sound recordings.

It is good news that at last the process of drafting amendments to the *Copyright Act* will begin. Finally, Canada will be in a position to ratify the *WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT)*, and the *WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT)*, both of which treaties are crucial for performers and other rights holders. Ratification of these two treaties is critical if Canada is to meet the challenges and realize the benefits of the Internet and electronic media distribution.

Unfortunately, performers have been the last of all the creative community to receive important and necessary rights under copyright law. ACTRA has been a leading proponent of performers' rights in movies, television and audiovisual media at both the international level in Geneva as well as here in Canada. Now that the two WIPO treaties will become part of Canadian law, our members will look forward to assisting you and your department with the next important amendments to the *Copyright Act* - amendments that will give performers new rights in audiovisual media they so desperately need in today's global digital environment. New rights in copyright for performers will make our creative community stronger and benefit Canadian culture and our national identity.

Thank you.

Stephen Waddell
National Executive Director

Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists

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