

"I fully support the effort to bring Canada up to the standards set in the USA, UK and other countries. The creators of music, film, TV and all intellectual property need to be properly protected, paid fairly and in accord with the rest of the music-film-TV creators around the world. Instead of trying to play "catch up", Canada should be leaders in this field. It's time to "Take Care of Our Business"."

– Randy Bachman

"Any use of my music that is not protected not only robs me of my livelihood and makes me more dependent on government funding and social programs, it also decreases my contribution to the economy of this country."

– Lhasa

"It seems obvious to me that copyright laws have to reform in response to the radical impact of the internet and file sharing."

– Brad Roberts (Crash Test Dummies)

"We've gone part of the distance, now it's time to go all the way and bring Canada in line with progressive nations everywhere in ensuring that its creators are properly protected and compensated for the work they contribute to our society and the world."

– Murray McLauchlan

"Somehow there has been a complete misunderstanding that copyright is all about major labels dominating the music business, when it is really about artists who want to choose how and when they share their art."

– Sloan



"Copyright makes it possible for artists like me to earn a living. It allows us to sell our music, or if we so choose, to give it away. But without adequate copyright protection, our recordings can be freely stolen and distributed on the web, right in front of our eyes. All I'm asking for is a law that gives me a choice."

– Jully Black

"It should be the artist's right to determine how his or her works should be disseminated. Let's restore this fundamental right so that artists are treated fairly, and are encouraged to create. Fair is fair, rights are rights, let's get on with it."

– Brad Merritt (54*40)

"As a nation, surely we should be proactive in protecting musical artists' livelihoods so that they can continue to tell our stories, reflect our attitudes, and celebrate our communities. Now is the time for action, not blocking progress. In the words of a Gaelic proverb: 'Is sàmhach an obair dol a dholaidh.' (Going to ruin is silent work.)"

– Mary Jane Lamond

"Artists should be compensated for their work. It is a life decision and you commit your whole life to doing this. Something has to change. It can't go on like this."

– Alex Norman (Ill Scarlett)

"Everyone seems to think this is just hurting the labels and the superstars, so who cares? Wrong. People who download music have friends playing music in clubs in their hometowns, and those people are never going to get record deals because record companies won't have sold enough records to support a new artist."

– Kathleen Edwards

Artists Speak Out on Copyright Reform

"Creators like me are urging the federal government to join the rest of the western world and establish a fair and forward-looking rule of copyright."

– Bob Ezrin, Chairman, Live Nation Recordings, Producer and Songwriter

"In leading economies around the world, economic activity from intellectual property has been repeatedly demonstrated to be a cornerstone of broader economic health. Absence of effective copyright law is the beginning of a larger unraveling of our well-being."

– Andrew R. Shaw, President & CEO, Toronto Symphony Orchestra

"I urge the Canadian government to join the EU, USA and the rest of the developed world, and enact legislation implementing the WIPO treaties."

– Andy Stochansky

"As a creator, I should be able to choose how my works are distributed. Currently in Canada I don't have that choice. The government needs to give Canadian creators the same rights creators in other countries (like the UK and the US) already have."

– Kalan Porter

"Many of us went to Ottawa three years ago to lobby for change... and nothing happened. Are we in the third world when it comes to the protection and support of our artists' intellectual rights and property? Apparently so – it's time for a change now..."

– Tom Cochrane

"I am grateful, both as an artist and as a Canadian, that the government is moving forward on this important initiative to ensure that copyright for intellectual and creative property continues into the digital age."

– Loreena McKennit

For more information on copyright in Canada and additional quotes from Great Big Sea, Eva Avila, Tim Edwards (Crash Parallel), Brian Melo, Divine Brown, Jann Arden, Inward Eye, Andy Curran, Sheila Carabine & Amanda Walther (Dala), R. Harlan Smith & Chris Nielsen and Don Adams (Merritt Mountain Music Festival), visit: www.actra.ca/actra/control/feature30