

Canadian Intellectual Property Council pleased with introduction of copyright bill

Ottawa, June 12, 2008 – The Canadian Intellectual Property Council is pleased to support the overall principles of Bill C-61 that will update domestic laws and bring Canada in line with other leading nations who have adopted the World Intellectual Property Protection Organization (WIPO) Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty.

Launched on May 26, 2008, the CIPC's mission is to promote an improved environment in Canada for businesses engaged in innovation and intellectual property by raising the profile of intellectual property rights among key policy makers in the government and with the general public, and in turn, transform Canada's reputation as a country that supports innovation.

"Today's amendments to the Copyright Act are welcomed by the CIPC, stated John Peller, Honorary Chair of the CIPC. We look forward to being able to provide more comment on the substance of the Bill as it makes its way through the parliamentary system." Peller added.

It is also essential that the federal government strengthen the current legislative framework by: clearly stipulating trade-mark counterfeiting as a specific criminal offence under the Trade-marks Act; amending the Criminal Code to criminalize intentional possession of counterfeit goods for the purpose of sale. Law enforcement agencies and prosecutors also need better laws that provide a greater ability to combat product counterfeiting and piracy. Customs officials need to have new powers, and the associated additional resources, to search suspected shipments for counterfeit goods at the border and to communicate with intellectual property rights holders to allow for effective criminal, civil and/or administrative enforcement and deterrence against distribution of counterfeit and pirated products.

One of the main recommendations of the CIPC is the implementation of these WIPO treaties. This move today by the government should help curtail internet piracy", said Peller.

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For more information, contact:

Chris Gray

Office: 613.238.4000 ext. 251

Cell: 613.851.3478

cgray@chamber.ca