

Copyright: Let's get it right and let's get it done.

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Canadian Intellectual
Property Council

Conseil canadien de la
propriété intellectuelle

Affiliated with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce

ALL CANADIANS BENEFIT WHEN WE ENCOURAGE INNOVATION

Along with our artists and inventors, Canadian businesses of all sizes depend on their intellectual property. Intellectual property rights drive job creation, economic growth and innovation. By defining and better protecting IP rights, we will continue to develop a marketplace that rewards investments in innovation and creation.

Canada has continued to lag behind virtually all developed nations (and stands alone among its G8 partners) in not having introduced laws that would implement the WIPO Internet Treaties. All of Canada's major trading partners have modernized their copyright legislation to support innovation in electronic commerce. The copyright bill currently before Parliament sets out some important objectives that will help to foster new business models and stronger economic growth in Canada. Passage of copyright legislation that meets the Bill's stated objectives will fulfill Canada's international obligations and align us with other technologically advanced and innovative nations. The business community looks forward to seeing a final Bill that provides rights holders with recognition, remuneration and the ability to assert their rights. This will strengthen creativity and innovation and promote investment.

Passing an amended version of Bill C-11 will improve digital IP safeguards, but we also need other measures, including better border protection against counterfeit goods. Additionally, it's time to update our patent regime. By better protecting and defining IP rights, we will develop a marketplace that rewards investments in innovation and creation, which will encourage innovative new business models, stronger economic growth, new jobs and greater prosperity.

Better IP protection will also help consumers. Better laws and enforcement against counterfeiting and piracy will

also protect our families from shoddy and often dangerous products like knock-off electrical cords, car parts and medicine that can threaten their safety and even their lives. Our goal should be to put the criminal syndicates that profit from selling these dangerous knock-offs out of business.

In modern, developed nations like Canada, services and innovation have become key economic drivers, creating a climate where creativity can flourish is crucial. That is why the government also needs to better recognize the economic contribution of our developing life sciences sector. Implementing additional data protection and a five-year patent term restoration system in Canada can keep these knowledge-intensive jobs and investments at home.

Finally, we need to streamline the patent review system in Canada and increase judicial expertise on intellectual property rights issues. Our international competitors are benefitting from their countries' understanding of what it takes to get products to market faster and more successfully.

In every sector of economic activity, the jobs we need to ensure our prosperity will increasingly be based on knowledge. There is much more that Parliament can do right now to promote innovation and create those twenty-first century jobs.

Our most important resource by far is the knowledge and creativity of our citizens. We will all benefit by providing an environment where their efforts are rewarded and where innovation can flourish.

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