

Canadian Chamber welcomes government action to protect intellectual property

OTTAWA (June 12, 2008) – The Canadian Chamber of Commerce supports the introduction of Bill C-61 that will amend the *Copyright Act* and update domestic laws to bring Canada in line with the World Intellectual Property Protection Organization (WIPO) Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty.

In February 2007, the House of Commons Industry, Science and Technology Committee reported on the manufacturing sector and recommended that intellectual property in Canada would be better protected if the government implemented the WIPO Copyright treaties. The Canadian Chamber has endorsed the ratification of these treaties.

No industry is immune to the theft of intellectual property. The economic impact of this problem on Canadian companies and the lost tax revenue for the government is significant. The issue of counterfeiting and piracy has become so rampant that it threatens to become an international embarrassment for Canada that could taint our reputation abroad for future investment.

“The changes to the Copyright Act the government has announced today to more effectively protect intellectual property are most welcomed by the business community,” said Perrin Beatty, President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

“The introduction of this bill is definitely a step forward in protecting intellectual property rights”.

- Valerie Payn, President, Halifax Chamber of Commerce

“In the rapidly changing global economy, protecting intellectual property is critical to ensuring a competitive and stable business environment in Canada”.

- Françoise Bertrand, President, Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec

“From our perspective, intellectual property rights protection is very important to the growth of our regional economy”.

- Ross Wells, Chair of the Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce

“This bill shows that the government takes the issue of protecting intellectual property seriously and builds on the strong pro-intellectual property statements that were included the Throne Speech”.

- Heather Douglas, President & CEO, Calgary Chamber of Commerce

The Canadian Chamber will continue to press for legislative changes and more resources to fight counterfeiting and piracy at our borders,” Mr. Beatty added.