



Canadian Library Association  
Association canadienne des bibliothèques

The Honourable James Moore, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Industry  
235 Queen Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H5

December 20, 2013

Dear Minister Moore:

SUBJECT: Changes to Crown Copyright and Licensing

The Canadian Library Association (CLA) is writing to express concerns about recent changes to the administration of Crown Copyright and Licensing, and to request your intervention to protect the Canadian public's interest in accessing and using government works.

Clarity and consistency in regulation, or at least policy, is necessary to ensure the public's ease of access to federal government information and to protect the ability of Canadian libraries to support that public access. It is also important for libraries to be able to efficiently and effectively continue preservation of Crown publications, as many of such works are now exclusively distributed through the Internet, and materials can be removed from the Internet without providing public access to the works previously posted other than through the efforts and resources of Canada's libraries.

CLA is concerned with the termination of centralized Crown Copyright and Licensing administration within Publishing and Depository Services. Decentralizing permissions and licensing of federal crown copyrighted materials will undermine the progress that your government made administratively when it announced permission, subject to some limitations, for personal and non-commercial uses of Crown publications in 2010. Decentralization of Crown Copyright administration to departments and agencies may lead to inconsistencies in the application of the policy and difficulties for users in identifying appropriate places to seek permissions and licenses.

CLA would like to make the following recommendations:

1. CLA recommends that the government introduce a regulation detailing the government's entire policy on Crown Copyright similar to policy now instantiated in the Reproduction of Federal Law Order, SI/97-5. CLA recommends that this regulation permit the reproduction of Government of Canada works, without charge or request for permission, provided that due diligence is exercised to ensure the accuracy of reproduction and that the reproduction is not represented as an official version.

If the Government decides to continue with an administrative approach to its policy of permissions and licensing of personal and non-commercial uses of Crown publications (rather than introducing a regulation as recommended above):

2. CLA recommends that the license statement previously posted on the Crown Copyright website, which has now been removed, be posted on each website of every federal department and agency.

3. CLA recommends that clear communication and consistent application of the policy be required across all federal departments and agencies in order to ensure equitable public access to all federal Crown publications.

CLA strongly urges the Government to consider its recommendations in order to ensure clear communication and consistent application of federal Crown Copyright policy and enhance the ability of Canada's libraries to help make legally available to the public works initially made available by the Government. Ease of access to government information is important for citizen engagement and for the advancement of Canadian knowledge and innovation. Clear, consistent, centralized administration of Crown copyright, preferably enshrined in regulation, will support and further the Government's Open Government Action Plan.

Thank you.



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