



June 6, 2014

The Honourable Shelly Glover  
Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages  
Room 532-N Centre Block House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Via Email: [shelly@shellyglover.ca](mailto:shelly@shellyglover.ca)

Original to follow in post

Dear Minister Glover:

The Canadian Library Association (CLA), along with many other organizations and the print disabled community in Canada, celebrated the adoption of the WIPO *Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled (VIP Treaty)* on June 27, 2013. The Canadian Government was deservedly commended for its role in the successful completion of the negotiations.

CLA notes that as of April 30, 2014 sixty-four countries have signed the *VIP Treaty* including the European Union and the United States. To date it is our understanding that Canada has not yet signed. CLA trusts that it is your Government's intent to sign the *VIP Treaty* in a timely manner.

Article 17 of the *VIP Treaty*, Signature of the Treaty, reads "This Treaty shall be opened for signature at the Diplomatic Conference in Marrakesh, and thereafter at the headquarters of WIPO by any eligible party for one year after its adoption." CLA is unclear about the intent of this article. One year after adoption will be June 27, 2014. Does this Article mean that Canada would be faced with obstacles to signing the *VIP Treaty* after June 27? If yes, clearly the signing of the *VIP Treaty* takes on great short term urgency. Any clarification on Article 17 which you or your staff can provide would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marie DeYoung' in a cursive script.

Marie DeYoung  
President

c.c Valoree McKay, Executive Director, Canadian Library Association  
Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)  
Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA)  
National Network of Equitable Library Service (NNELS)  
Library and Archives Canada