



**WIPO STANDING COMMITTEE ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> Session: Geneva, 21 November 2011 – 02 December 2011**  
**Limitations and Exceptions for the Visually Impaired**  
**Intervention by the Canadian Library Association**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Canadian Library Association.

CLA strongly endorses moving forward expeditiously to achieve the objectives set out in SCCR22/16 as prepared by the Chair.

Canadians takes pride in the legislative framework which exists in our national law for the production of alternate formats.

But limitations on the movement of alternate formats across international borders present a significant service and financial challenge for the libraries, not for profit agencies and educational institutions which serve print disabled Canadians.

I can speak to this matter personally – as past Chair of the Library and Archives Canada Council on Access to Information for Print Disabled Canadians I witnessed a proposed agreement between NGO's in the USA and Canada for the exchange of digital alt format content not proceed due to legal advice received. This meant that students waiting for textbooks for courses currently underway – rather than being able to quickly access existing legally produced alternate formats had to wait for the not for profit agency which served them to produce a new alternate format – a time consuming and costly process – costly in terms of both human capital as well as a drain on the resources of an often financially challenged institution - a costly and inefficient process which did not result in one additional penny in rightholder revenue.

It is time to address this urgent matter in the form of a formal treaty. Thank you.

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