

IFRRO STATEMENT ON RESTORING FAIR COMPENSATION TO CREATORS OF CONTENT IN CANADA

Resolution adopted by the IFRRO Annual General Meeting in Tokyo on 8 November 2017

The International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organizations (IFRRO), at its Annual General Meeting in Tokyo, strongly urges the Canadian Government to restore fair compensation to creators of content, for the use of their works in education as part of the upcoming copyright review.

Since the 2012 changes to the Copyright Act, introducing educational “fair dealing”, extensive, unremunerated uses of works by educational institutions have taken place, with a negative impact on the creation of new Canadian educational material, leading to less diverse, quality, innovative content for students and teachers.

In Canada, collective licensing by Access Copyright and Copibec ensures access to copyright works by educational institutions for a modest fee. However, the current interpretation by educational institutions of the scope of educational fair dealing means that educational works are copied without remuneration to authors and publishers, even though elsewhere in the world similar usage is subject to a fee to the author and publishers.

It is in society's interest to strike the right balance between access to content and the need to reward creators to ensure that diverse and innovative Canadian content continues to be produced. This will improve citizens' access to knowledge, promote educational as well as cultural diversity and increase jobs and growth.

For these reasons, the IFRRO Annual General Meeting 2017 strongly urges the Canadian Government:

1. To restore the possibility for authors and publishers to receive fair compensation for the use of their creative work by educational institutions, by clarifying the limited scope of educational fair dealing
2. To encourage licensing solutions that provide a balance and ensure the sustainability of the text and image sector by the continued possibility to provide collective licensing solutions for the use of content.

About IFRRO

IFRRO has 149 members in 76 countries, representing the creative and publishing communities. The creative industries and the cultural sector are fundamental to the digital economy, and pivotal in sustaining national culture and cultural identity.