

From: David Jones

Sent: January 22, 2011 10:22 PM

To: ~Legislative Committee on Bill C-32/Comite législatif chargé du

Subject: proposed changes to the Copyright Act

While you are to be commended for avoiding a general extension to the current "Life + 50" copyright protection period, the following changes are called for:

1. There is no reason to extend the copyright protection for photographs beyond 50 years. It is often extremely difficult to track down the precise information about creator of a photograph. while the publication date is usually not in question. So the current approach of placing a photograph in the Public Domain 50 years after publication should remain in place.

Those of us who take the Copyright Act seriously are very careful to observe the current protections, but a change of the kind you suggest will likely increase the numbers of people who simply reject the Act as completely unjustified. This is particularly true in the case of photographic images, since the number being created year by year is rising astronomically.

The advent of digital imagery and the Internet has reduced the photographic image from the status of an artistic creation to a mere blip in the digital stream. Indeed, because the effort to produce an image has been reduced to virtually nothing, and the ability to modify, change, meld or incorporate such images into others has increased to the point where anyone can do it (my 5 year old grand-daughter is quite competent) there is an argument that says no copyright whatever should apply. Certainly, it is virtually impossible to document the creation of images, follow their modification, track their distribution or police any potential violation of copyright.

2. Many works in Canada fall into a class where the identification of the original creator(s), or the determination of the creator's Date of Death, is nearly impossible. The copyright on such works should expire 75 years after first publication.

Thank you

David T. Jones