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Sent: November 27, 2010 8:19 PM

To: Tittley, Michelle

Subject: Bill C-32

From the time when Saint Columba stated the principle of copyright in Gaelic Brehon Law more than 1500 years ago after he killed a man who had copied his book without permission, the world has come to recognize the author's implicit right to ownership of creative work in his utterance that has come echoing down to us through the ages; namely "to each cow its calf and each book its copy."

Fast forward 1500 years to the overweening arrogance of some legislators in the Parliament of Canada who have abrogated to themselves the high handed notion that they have the right in the name of "fair use" in Bill C-32 to expropriate what is not theirs and to give it away to others without the permission of the authors whose creative and intellectual property it is.

Do these legislators not realize that by so doing they are proclaiming juridical rights of the State to expropriate intellectual property without compensation whenever it deems it justified by some arbitrary measure? What an inexplicable and illogical precedent to emerge from a country hitherto much given over to enlightened leadership in defence of the rights and values of its citizens and those of the rest of the world. Bill C-32 establishes the dangerous principle that the State can decide to expropriate for its and others use what ever it deems justified by some wholly headed notion of the public good. What it is doing is saying that the content of our creative minds ultimately belongs first to the state. And the state will decide in its wisdom what it wishes to take from its citizens minds. This is anathema to western democratic values and traditions because it means our thoughts and very minds belong to government, and that is a slippery road to discredited totalitarianism and collectivism in an age where technology is already threateningly invasive. We should insist that our legislators resist the greed of others who seek to steal for themselves what they cannot themselves produce or pay for. If they do not abandon Bill C-35 they have opened Pandora's box to a massive invasion of privacy and the loss of the rights of individuals to their own thoughts..

James R. O'Hagan

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device