

From: Carol Holmes [mailto:cholmes@writersguild.ab.ca]

Sent: March 2, 2012 2:07 PM

To: Hawn, Laurie - M.P.

Cc: Paradis, Christian - Député; Moore, James - M.P.; Moore, James - M.P.; Thibeault, Glenn - M.P.; Angus, Charlie - M.P.; Armstrong, Scott - M.P.; Benskin, Tyrone - M.P.; Braid, Peter - M.P.; Calandra, Paul - M.P.; Cash, Andrew - M.P.; Del Mastro, Dean - M.P.; Lake, Mike - M.P.; McColeman, Phil - M.P.; Moore, Rob - M.P.; Nantel, Pierre - Député; Regan, Geoff - M.P.; ~Legislative Committee Bill C-11/Comité législatif loi C-11

Subject:

The Hon. Laurie Hawn

Dear Mr. Hawn

I write on behalf of The Writers' Guild of Alberta (WGA) to address items in C Bill -11, an Act to Amend the *Copyright Act*, that if passed as proposed will severely impact the vitality of Canadian writing and publishing and restrict the access of Canadians to Canadian written content.

The WGA has a membership of over 1000 writers many of whom depend on the *Copyright Act* for their livelihood. As with other legislation related to intellectual property, the *Copyright Act* enables creators, working as entrepreneurs, to manage their work and earn an income.

The proposed change to the Copyright Act, in Bill C-11 would cut back on longstanding property rights that are vital to writers' survival. Many of these new exceptions take away or reduce the ability writers currently have to control their work and to be compensated for it.

Among the most troubling of these exceptions is the extension of "fair dealing" to "education." If the work of creators can be used for free in educational settings, the educational market is at risk of being legislated away. Employees in educational settings from caretakers to presidents receive compensation for their work, writers deserve equal treatment.

I hope for your support of writers' ability to continue to contribute to Canadian culture and to the Canadian economy.

Respectfully,

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"The Writers Guild of Alberta's mission is to inspire, connect, support, encourage and promote writers and writing, to safeguard the freedom to write and to read, and to advocate for the well-being of writers."