



## Online Access for Publisher Affiliates - February 2008

### Public Domain Registry Update

In 2006, Access Copyright announced a partnership with Creative Commons and the Wikimedia Foundation on the creation of a Canadian Public Domain Registry.

Access Copyright's role in this project has been to provide bibliographic information on Canadian published works contained in its Rights Management System (RMS). This list of over 300,000 works, including works that are currently in the Public Domain and those that will enter the Public Domain in the future, was provided to Creative Commons and the Wikimedia Foundation in September 2007.

A Beta version of the Public Domain Registry is now being tested by all three partners. The organizations also have external testing teams in place to ensure that the Wiki is accurate and user-friendly.

Once testing is complete, the registry will look similar to the online encyclopedia Wikipedia. It will be a globally searchable database of Canadian works, including those in the Public Domain. It will allow users to search and edit records in the registry to provide additional information about individual creators, the history of the registry's works and to add additional works to the system. The hope is that it will be a model for similar public domain registries around the globe.

### 2008 Distribution Plan

Access Copyright has set a tentative target to distribute \$23,500,000 in 2008, which is a \$2.1 million increase over the 2007 distribution target.

For complete details of our 2008 distribution targets, please click [here](#).

### Important Income Tax Information for our Publisher Affiliates

The payments rightholders receive through Access Copyright are considered taxable income, meaning that collectives such as Access Copyright must keep track of these payments and to report them on a T5 slip.

During the week of February 18, we will be mailing rightholders their 2007 T5 slip. If you have recently moved or wish to confirm your contact information with us, please contact Affiliate Services at (416) 868-1620 (toll-free 1-800-893-5777) ext. 250 or 275 or via email at [affiliates@accesscopyright.ca](mailto:affiliates@accesscopyright.ca). You can also contact Affiliate Services if you would like more information on your payment history with us.

If you have any questions about T5s, please visit the Canada Revenue Agency website's forms and publications section, or you can access the bulletin IT-504R2 (Consolidated)

Visual Artists and Writers [here](#).

### **Sponsorship Program Deadline Approaching**

The next deadline for applications to Access Copyright's sponsorship program is on February 28. Any individual or organization interested in receiving funds for an event that is consistent with our mandate is encouraged to do so. Access Copyright strives to meet the needs of users of copyright protected material, while also ensuring creators and publishers receive fair compensation.

Over the program's first year, we supported a wide range of events, including annual general meetings, conferences and book festivals for amounts between \$500 to \$2,501. If you are interested in receiving a sponsorship application or getting more information on our program, please contact our Communications department by phone at 416-868-1620 (toll-free 1-800-893-5777) ext. 283 or by email at [editor@accesscopyright.ca](mailto:editor@accesscopyright.ca).

### **Fact-Finder Update**

In June of 2006, The Access Copyright Board of Directors commissioned a fact-finder to undertake a full review of the distribution policy and methodology used by Access Copyright. The task was completed by Professor Martin L. Friedland, a law professor at the University of Toronto.

Friedland wrote a lengthy report consisting of 20 recommendations, which was given to the Board of Directors on February 15, 2007. Since that time, the Board has undertaken an intense assessment of the report and its recommendations, received advice from other external experts, introduced several new practices, provided more clarity to Access Copyright's distribution policy and practices, and ensured that the distribution policy continues to be based on a clear set of principles.

It is not often that an organization takes up the challenge to critically examine itself and identify areas for improvement. It is even less often that a critical review results in concrete actions that will ultimately improve the processes through which the organization fulfills its mandate.

The Report and the Board's responsive actions to it are now complete and available upon request. The Board looks forward to this new year when most of the actions resulting from the report will be implemented.

For a full description of Access Copyright's distribution methodology, please click [here](#).

### **2008 Annual General Meeting**

Access Copyright will be holding its 2008 Annual General Meeting on Friday, March 14 at the Westin-Harbour Castle in downtown Toronto. The meeting is scheduled to begin with a presentation at 9:15 a.m. by Claude Brunet, a respected copyright and intellectual property lawyer, with AGM proceedings to start at 11:45 a.m.

If you would like more information about our AGM, please contact our Communications department by phone at 416-868-1620 (toll-free 1-800-893-5777) ext. 283 or by email at [editor@accesscopyright.ca](mailto:editor@accesscopyright.ca). Stay tuned for a recap of the meeting in our next newsletter.

### **Access Copyright On the Road**

The winter trade show and conference season is in full swing for our Education Licensing Development department. The team has already attended the 2008 Ontario Library Association Super Conference, one of the largest yearly gatherings of librarians in Canada. They will also be at the Reading of the Love of It conference in Toronto and the Calgary City Teachers' Convention Association Conference in February, and the Language Canada's Conference and AGM in Ottawa in March. The team is also visiting our education licensees across the country to meet with teachers and faculty.

### **Direct Deposit Has Been Launched**

Access Copyright successfully launched its direct deposit system for royalty payments in December. Going forward, thousands of our affiliates who have signed up for direct deposit will enjoy the speed and convenience of this payment service. If your organization hasn't signed up for this service but is interested in it, you can download our direct deposit enrolment form [here](#). Please fill out the form and send it back to us with a void corporate cheque, to 1 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M5E 1E5, Attention: Accounting Department.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding direct deposit or if you are unsure whether your organization has signed up for it, please contact Affiliate Services via email at [affiliates@accesscopyright.ca](mailto:affiliates@accesscopyright.ca) or by phone at 416-868-1620 (toll-free 1-866-893-5777) ext. 250 or 275.

### **Reciprocal Agreement – Singapore**

Access Copyright is happy to announce that we have signed a reciprocal agreement with the reproduction rights organization (RRO) in Singapore, [CLASS](#). This agreement means that our affiliates' copyright protected works can now be licensed by the Singaporean RRO and vice versa.

Currently, Access Copyright has reciprocal agreements with 28 countries that have greatly expanded the amount of works covered by an Access Copyright licence. For more information, please click [here](#).

### **OMDC Funding Announcement**

Access Copyright has been awarded funding from the Ontario Media Development Corporation's Entertainment and Creative Cluster Partnership Fund to help us pilot a new versatile licensing service. In response to the demand for greater flexibility in accessing print and digital content at post-secondary institutions, we are endeavouring to create, in partnership with several Canadian publishers, a new licensing portal. This portal will allow users in the post-secondary community to select and use a variety of content in both print and digital formats, including the creation of coursepacks. It will also streamline the processes of rights clearances and determining royalties owed for the use of copyright protected materials.

This initiative is part of an ambitious effort by Access Copyright to pursue new emerging opportunities in the digital world

### **Freedom to Read Week: February 24-March 1, 2008**

Freedom to Read Week is a yearly event that is organized by the Freedom of Expression Committee of the Book and Periodical Council. This year, Freedom to Read Week is being held from February 24 to March 1 and is meant to raise awareness about censorship and the challenges that can arise that prevent access to various printed materials across Canada.

For more information on events being planned to mark this initiative as well as information on how to get involved, please click [here](#). Please note that Freedom to Read Week is not an Access Copyright initiative.

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Access Copyright, The Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency | <http://www.accesscopyright.ca> | 1 800 893 5777  
[info@accesscopyright.ca](mailto:info@accesscopyright.ca)