

From: Stephen Stohn
Sent: January 30, 2011 9:30 AM
To: ~Legislative Committee on Bill C-32/Comite législatif chargé du projet de loi C-32
Subject: Bill C32: Television production and technology in Canada

Honourable Committee Members:

As a Canadian television industry producer, I've experienced firsthand the opportunities and challenges of the digital age and greatly support the current effort to update our copyright laws.

At Degrassi: The Next Generation, engaging our fans and encouraging them to become ambassadors for the show, is our number one priority. We love to see our fans express themselves about the themes we develop in the show, and technology provides the tools to make this possible.

There comes a point, however, when technology is used to go one step too far. At Degrassi we draw the line at the pirating of episodes before they go to air and the use of our content or our fans' content by other people in order to profit at our collective expense. When unauthorized people profit from the use of Degrassi content, it crosses the line of fairness and affects our ability to produce a quality series—one which has become a prized cultural product and job creator in Canada.

Television production can only flourish and provide opportunities to actors, producers and the scores of others working in the field, if we have a set of rules that protects original creators. Such laws, that are up-to-date with today's digital environment, are imperative to helping us protect our creative content from those who would misuse technology.

In this light, Bill C-32 is a great start, and with the right technical changes we can ensure that the Bill meets its stated intentions.

We have an opportunity to get this right. I ask that you make the passage of updated copyright legislation that provides the necessary safeguards to our coveted cultural products and broader industries a clear and immediate priority.

Sincerely,

Stephen Stohn
President of Epitome Pictures Inc.
Executive Producer of Degrassi: The Next Generation

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