

From: Sylvia Fraser
Sent: March 11, 2012 6:29 PM
To: ~Legislative Committee Bill C-11/Comité législatif loi C-11
Subject: BILL C-11

To the Clerk of the Committee,

As a full-time, freelance writer for more than fifty years, I am acutely impacted by the digital revolution which makes it increasingly difficult to retain legitimate control over my creative body of work. Many of the proposals in Bill C-11 further undermine my ability to do so by adding extensions whereby my work can be used without compensation.

The most troubling of these extensions describes the uncompensated use of my creative work for "education" as "fair dealing."

Of course, governments like this clause because it cuts down (minimally) on the education budget, and many teachers also like it because it eliminates the need for reporting, while providing the illusion that fewer payouts may somehow some day benefit them.

The amount of money involved, given the educational budget, is truly puny, but it is absolutely critical to the survival of writers and publishers in this country, many of whom live at or below the poverty level.

From a writer's viewpoint, the description of "fair dealing" is sadly ironic. Teachers get paid; educational administrators and board members get paid; janitors get paid; computers, paper and basketballs are considered a legitimate part of school budgets, but writers will be expected to donate their work for free.

I hope that you will use your voice to see that the modernized Copyright Act is, indeed, fair to this country's creators and not a license to steal.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Fraser