

From: stelten

Sent: March 8, 2012 8:48 PM

To: Savoie, Denise - 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: Bill C-11, An Act to Amend the Copyright Act

Denise Savoie, B.A., M.A., M.Ed., MP (Victoria)
Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees of the Whole
House of Commons

Dear Denise

It is encouraging to know that Parliament is considering Bill C-11, an Act to Amend the *Copyright Act*. As you know, I am a writer and author living in your riding.

Fortunately, my livelihood has never depended upon my creative endeavours. However, the protection of my intellectual property by the *Copyright Act* is of utmost concern to me. Especially in this digital age, when unscrupulous writers have lifted my online work and even changed its form and content to suit their needs: a contravention of my moral rights under the *Act*.

I have recently been a modest beneficiary of the class action, *Heather Robertson vs ProQuest et al*, concerning the right to payment for newspaper and magazine work published originally in print, then digitized and posted on the world wide web. In the early days of electronic publication, this was done without financial compensation to the writer. With the *Act* as her shield, journalist Heather Robertson fought and won a glorious battle for us all. It will have particular significance for career writers and journalists.

It has been a matter of great pride to me that my work has contributed to the livelihood of book, newspaper and magazine publishers, editors, illustrators, printers, and webmasters, distributors and booksellers, libraries and art galleries, composers and musicians, actors, radio producers and journalists, architectural designer and glass engraver. Many publishers were small and medium sized enterprises. Some had to give up the struggle and are now defunct.

I strongly support modernizing the *Copyright Act*, but I have been told by the League of Canadian Poets and Access Copyright that Bill C-11 has more than 30 new exceptions which affect rights holders. Many of these remove or reduce the ability I currently have to control my work and be compensated for it.

Among the most troubling of these is the extension of fair dealing, or uncompensated use, to education. Most of my early work was for the juvenile market—which I occasionally write for today. The income from this source is modest enough without further eroding it.

As for poetry, which I write for both adult and youth markets, many publishers of anthologies and magazines—especially those online—expect creators to work for free, a reality often dictated by economics. We do get a complimentary contributor's copy of print editions in which our work appears. This is comparable to you devoting your energy, expertise and creativity to Parliament, in return for a free copy of Hansard.

It is particularly important that my copyright in these works be protected so that they are available for multiple markets and the resulting income I derive through Access Copyright.

I know you are an active supporter of the arts, Denise, and I look forward to your ongoing advocacy so that creators of the written word may continue to contribute to both Canadian culture and the Canadian economy.

Respectfully
Rosalee van Stelten