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December 6, 2004

The Hon. Bill Graham, P.C., M.P.
Minister of National Defence
c/o Constituency Office
365 Bloor Street East, Ste. 1805
Toronto Ontario M4W 3L4

Dear Sir:

Thank you for meeting with the Toronto Public Library on December 3, 2004 to discuss issues concerning copyright reform. We appreciated the opportunity to highlight our concerns, and were encouraged by your sympathetic response.

The Toronto Public Library Board, representing the interests of public library users, feels very strongly that any revisions to the Copyright Act must continue to uphold a balance between the rights of creators and users for the purposes of private study, research and education. Access to information is fundamental to democracies, to innovation and to learning. Any changes to our copyright legislation introduced to address the new digital technologies and international treaty provisions must not be allowed to erode user rights that are currently protected. The Supreme Court in the unanimous decision in CCH Canadian Ltd. v. Law Society of Upper Canada in March of this year spoke eloquently to the need to "balance the public interest in promoting the encouragement and dissemination of works of the arts and intellect and obtaining a just reward for the creator".

We appreciate your support in agreeing to: 1) advise us of the current status of copyright reform and the likely timetable for next steps and 2) raise the issue with Minister of Industry, David Emerson. We would also welcome your raising this issue with your Cabinet colleagues and underscoring the concerns of the educational and user communities at any opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Gillian Mason
Chair
Toronto Public Library Board

Library Board

Chair

Gillian Mason

Vice-Chair

William Booth

City Librarian

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Louise Aspin
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Councillor Janet Davis
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Okeima Lawrence
Councillor Kyle Rae
Kathy Gallagher-Ross
Councillor Karen Stintz
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Kate Wilson