



news@chamber.ca

June 12, 2008

Government Introduces Balanced, Made-in-Canada Approach to Copyright Reform

Today's introduction in the House of Commons of Bill C-61, which makes amendments to the *Copyright Act* and updates domestic laws to bring Canada in line with the World Intellectual Property Protection Organization (WIPO) *Copyright Treaty* and the WIPO *Performances and Phonograms Treaty*, is seen as a positive step by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

In February 2007, the House of Commons Industry, Science and Technology Committee reported on the manufacturing sector and recommended that intellectual property in Canada would be better protected if the government implemented the WIPO copyright treaties. The Canadian Chamber has endorsed the ratification of these treaties.

The *Copyright Act* has not been reformed significantly for the past 10 years. New rights and protections are required if rights holders are to better reach new markets, adapt their business models and combat infringement in a digital environment.

In developing the changes introduced today, the government has been guided by four principles:

- The *Copyright Act* must provide clear, predictable and fair rules to allow Canadians to derive benefits from their creations.
- The rights of those who hold copyright must be balanced with the needs of users to access copyright works.
- The *Copyright Act* should foster innovation in an effort to attract investment and high-paying jobs to Canada
- Canada must ensure that its copyright framework for the Internet is in line with international standards.

The proposed amendments to the act include:

- new exceptions that will allow Canadian consumers to legally record television shows for later viewing and copy legally acquired music onto other devices such as iPods or cell phones;
- new exceptions for some educational and research purposes;
- new rights and protections for those who create content; and
- provisions to address the liability of Internet service providers and the role they should play in curbing copyright-infringing activities on their networks.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce urges its members to use the opportunity of a summer recess of the House of Commons, to contact MPs have returned to their ridings and impress upon them the importance of this legislation to businesses across all sectors, in all regions towards better protecting intellectual property.

For more information on this item, contact Chris Gray, Policy Analyst, (613) 238-4000, x251, cgray@chamber.ca.

Key Budget Bill Passed this Week

After much debate, Bill C-50 was passed by the House of Commons on June 9. The legislation will implement key measures from Budget 2008, such as the *Tax Free Savings Account*, initiatives to modernize Canada's immigration system and increase support for post-secondary students.

Some of the key measures contained in Bill C-50 will:

- Allow Canadians to invest up to \$5,000 a year in a new *Tax-Free Savings Account* starting in 2009. Investment income earned within the account, including capital gains, will not be taxed and withdrawals will be tax-free.
- Modernize the immigration system with a \$22-million investment over two years, growing to \$37 million per year by 2012-13, including legislation to speed up the processing of permanent resident applications, ensuring shorter wait times and making Canada's immigration system more competitive
- Invest \$500 million in 2007-08 through provinces and territories for public transit infrastructure.
- Support Canadian students with a \$350-million investment in 2009-10, rising to \$430 million by 2012-13, in a new consolidated Canada Student Grant Program that will reach 245,000 college and undergraduate students per year when it takes effect in the fall of 2009.
- Commit an additional \$123 million over four years starting in 2009-10 to streamline and modernize the Canada Student Loans Program including expanding online services to enable students to manage their student loan accounts online.
- Improve the management and governance of the Employment Insurance (EI) program through the creation of the Canada Employment Insurance Financing Board, an independent Crown corporation with a legislated structure which ensures that EI premiums are dedicated exclusively to the EI program.

- Benefit small and medium-sized businesses by improving the scientific research and experimental development tax incentive program.
- Invest \$60 million per year to ensure that low-income seniors who work can realize greater benefits from their earnings through an increase in the Guaranteed Income Supplement earnings exemption.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce sees a number of these items as positive changes for Canadians and Canadian businesses as many of them will assist Canada's productivity and competitiveness. C-50 will now go before the Senate before it becomes law.

For further information on this item, contact Tina Kremmidas, Assistant Vice President and Senior Economist, (416) 868-6415, x222, tkremmidas@chamber.ca.

Chamber Part of Coalition Advocating A Stronger Dispute-Settlement System to Ensure Open Interprovincial Trade

This week, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and other prominent business associations joined together to urge Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments to take advantage of this week's meeting of the Committee on Internal Trade to craft an effective dispute-settlement mechanism that ensures free and open interprovincial trade, says a national coalition of ten business, industry and professional associations.

In April the coalition released a discussion paper calling on all levels of government to cooperate in finding ways to improve trade, investment and labour mobility in Canada.

The recommended approach of the coalition has four key elements that, taken together, would eliminate trade barriers that hamper the domestic economy:

- Federal legislation to establish a set of "open trade principles" designed to ensure a free and open market, without discriminatory practices;
- Creation of a standing internal trade tribunal that would be accessible to all Canadians as a means of resolving internal trade disputes;
- Implementation of all outstanding rulings by panels established under the 12-year-old *Agreement on Internal Trade*; and,
- An agreement that all tribunal orders and existing panel decisions would be subject to enforcement by the courts at the option of the disputants.

*Copies of the coalition's discussion paper, *Improving Internal Trade: A Bold Approach*, are available online at www.cga.org/canada/internaltrade.*

Encouraging greater employer investment in workplace learning: Report of Halifax Regional Roundtable on Employer Investment in Workplace Learning

The Canadian Council on Learning's Work and Learning Knowledge Centre (WLKC) has just released the report of its Halifax *Regional Roundtable on Employer Investment in Workplace Learning*.

The Halifax roundtable part of a cross-country initiative brought together senior representatives from government, business, labour, colleges, universities and the community sector. This high-level group assessed major skills and training challenges facing the Halifax region, and discussed some of the "best bets" for moving forward to address these challenges.

A copy of the report is available at the WLKC's Web site: www.cclcca.ca/WorkLearning.

For further information, contact: Alex Stephens, (613) 241-3222
a.stephens@wllc-csamt.ca.

Government Seeks Input on Possible Canada - Panama Free Trade Agreement

The government of Canada is exploring the possibility of entering into free trade negotiations with Panama. In order to assess whether to proceed and to gather information regarding the interests and sensitivities of Canadian companies, the government is seeking business' input on this initiative. For more information, go to: www.international.gc.ca/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/agr-acc/panama.aspx?lang=en

Views on this, including priorities, objectives or concerns with regard to a possible free trade agreement with Panama, should be provided by Monday, June 30 to consultations@international.gc.ca and to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, contact Brian Zeiler-Kligman, Policy Analyst, International, (613) 238-40000, x225, bzeilerkligman@chamber.ca.

Canada Signs Free Trade Agreement with Peru, Successfully Concludes Negotiations with Colombia

On May 29, the governments of Canada and Peru officially signed the *Canada-Peru Free Trade Agreement*, as well as agreements on Labour Cooperation and the Environment. Implementing legislation will be introduced following the mandatory 21-sitting days that the agreement will be tabled in the House of Commons for review and debate, with a goal of having this agreement come into force by January 1, 2009.

On June 7, Minister David Emerson announced the successful conclusion of negotiations toward a free trade agreement with Colombia. At the same time, Canada and Colombia have concluded labour cooperation and environment agreements. The coverage of these agreements is similar to the agreements concluded with Peru. The process now is for these agreements to undergo a “legal scrub” and then they will be signed. These agreements will then be tabled for review in the House of Commons for 21 sitting days, with implementing legislation being introduced after this period.

The Canadian Chamber welcomes both of these agreements and applauds the federal government in concluding these negotiations with Peru and Colombia, which began in June 2007. The Canadian Chamber, supported by a number of members, recently sent a letter to the House of Commons Standing Committee on International Trade to express its support for the Canada-Colombia agreement. Canadian Chamber staff also testified before the committee regarding the Canada-Colombia negotiations on June 2, 2008.

For more information, contact Brian Zeiler-Kligman, Policy Analyst, International, at (613) 238-4000 x225, bzeilerkligman@chamber.ca.

Potential Candidates Sought for Canadian American Business Achievement Awards

The Canadian American Business Council (CABC) seeks nominations for the prestigious **2008 Canadian American Business Achievement Award**. Each year, the council seeks information about innovative and successful alliances between Canadian and American firms to recognize the benefits that these partnerships bring to both countries in jobs, innovation, and revenue creation.

These efforts culminate in the presentation of the Award for Canadian American Business Achievement, given to two companies, one Canadian and one American, whose joint enterprise has demonstrated the following:

- Strong business growth
- Remarkable innovation
- The capacity to provide the partners with a global advantage

The business and trade relationship between the Canada and the U.S. is the largest in the world. Innovative Canadian and American firms that seek the advantages of partnerships across the border are driving an increasing proportion of that business.

The winners are chosen by an international panel of judges using exacting standards that examine sustained profitability, job creation, financial strength, environmental responsibility, corporate synergy, exceptional imagination and remarkable innovation.

The 2008 Canadian American Business Achievement Award will mark the 14th year of recognizing and promoting the positive contributions that innovative cross-border business partnerships make to both the United States and Canada. This year's

recipients will be recognized at an event taking place on November 13, 2008 in Vancouver, BC.

The nomination form may be found at <http://training.agentestore.biz/7.html>. **The deadline for nominations to be received is June 30, 2008.** For more information contact Jennifer Morris at (202) 496-7421 / Fax: (202) 496-7756, jmorris@mckennalong.com.

June 19th – Mississauga - International Trade Day

Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics David Emerson will keynote at this annual event where business talks trade. Minister Emerson's address will focus on Canada's role and performance in the area of international trade and will be followed by panel discussions on "What smart communities are doing to attract foreign investment and to foster investment abroad by companies in their area" and "Canadian global product mandates: what does it take to win a Canadian mandate?". For more information visit the Chamber's Web site at www.chamber.ca.