

KEEP CANADA ON OUR SCREENS

VOTE CANADIAN CULTURE  MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

A made-in-Canada copyright solution

Question for Candidates:

*Will you introduce legislation to extend moral and economic rights to audiovisual performers in the Copyright Act, as recommended by the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage in its *Shifting Paradigms* report?*

The Challenge:

The *Copyright Act* has a material impact on a performer's ability to sustain a living and contribute to Canadian culture. New technology has dramatically changed the creative industries, and the Act needs to reflect the new economic reality in which artists operate. While it's easier than ever to have our work seen or heard by people around the world, it's harder than ever to be properly compensated for this work. Canada's *Copyright Act* provides minimal rights to performers in audiovisual works, which means we don't receive the same legislated protections as other creators and artists.

The jobs of hundreds of thousands of Canadians who work in the creative sector are at risk as a result of increasing online piracy and deepfake technology. Payments from legitimate streaming services, broadcasters, distributors, and exhibitors help support these creators.

ACTRA's Recommendations:

- Implement recommendation 16 from the *Shifting Paradigms* report to extend moral and economic rights to audiovisual performers in Canada's *Copyright Act*, which would meet the global standard for audiovisual performances and allow performers to uphold our reputations by preventing unauthorized distortions or modifications of our performances. The codification of these rights underpins a union's bargaining efforts and provides a framework for future negotiations;
- Extend the private copying regime to audiovisual performances and devices so audiovisual performers are compensated when copies of our audiovisual work are made; and
- Protect Canadian artists from digital theft.