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Manitoba Library Association

Dear Mr. Marcotte,

The Manitoba Libraries Association (MLA) would like to be considered as potential panel members to offer testimony to the Statutory Review of the Copyright Act in Winnipeg, Manitoba. We are hoping you will support our request for an invitation.

MLA provides leadership in the promotion, development and support of library and information services in Manitoba for the benefit of MLA members, the library and information community and the citizens of Manitoba. We represent nearly 200 libraries from across all sectors, including public libraries, academic libraries, and special libraries. We also represent library technicians and library trustees.

Libraries have an interest in multiple copyright issues represented in the Act. We deal with copyrighted material on a daily basis. Our interests run broader than just the acquisition, access to, and use of books, however. We have a strong mandate to provide the public with equitable access to information, and to preserve that cultural heritage for the future. In this role, Libraries are a vital way to fuel creation and innovation. We would appreciate the opportunity to present specific information about potential improvements to the Act, in areas including Crown Copyright, orphan works, and Traditional/ Indigenous Knowledges, as well as to share broader perspectives on ways to support Canadian creators, publishing, and cultural heritage.

Manitoba libraries are engaged in many of the issues facing creators and users of copyrighted materials, but also increasingly in the new digital formats. Whether exploring ways to provide increased value for remote and rural patrons through new streaming content platforms, to providing equitable access to those with perceptual difficulties, Manitoba libraries represent a large market force in the Province of Manitoba. Through numerous Writer-in-Residence programs, Manitoba libraries also support the creation of Canadian materials, and are a vital resource for creators. Manitoba libraries are institutions that provide the raw materials that help shape the market, and are in turn large consumers of those finished goods, all in a not-for-profit model with a mandate to serve the public good. Because of this, we are uniquely situated to provide perspectives on the sustainability of the Canadian publishing industry and the role that rights under the Copyright Act can play in this creative economy.

We appreciate your support for our request to appear.

Sincerely,

Alix-Rae Stefanko, President

Kerry Macdonald, Vice President

Promoting public awareness of library services and library issues in Manitoba

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