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THE HILL TIMES **online**

Digital piracy is theft. Canadian jobs are what's being stolen.

By: John M. Lewis

The enactment of strong copyright legislation in Canada is long overdue.

As one of the largest trade unions in the entertainment industry, the IATSE membership in Canada is 16,000 strong, and we represent workers in a broad spectrum of crafts that are integral to the production, distribution and exhibition of motion pictures and television.

Digital theft has a direct impact on our membership. For our members, there is no job security. These are workers who are not in front of the camera, but who supply the necessary labour for movies and who depend on a healthy industry for their employment just to make ends meet. During the peak shooting of *Total Recall* last year in Toronto, for example, up to 600 workers from one local were employed by the project, including some days with 300 carpenters – more than most housing developments. [Source: The Toronto Star, "How Total Recall saved Toronto's film industry," <http://www.thestar.com/entertainment/article/1057751--how-total-recall-saved-toronto-s-film-industry>]

Seventy-five percent of movie revenues and 50% of TV show revenues come from downstream sources, meaning DVD sales, cable, pay-per-view, etc. Illegal downloads make for significant losses, as do compromised funding streams. Lenders are less willing to finance an increasingly unstable industry. The impact is felt not only by producers, but across the entire domestic industry, where financing is precarious and producers are looking for every available scrap of funding to get a show made. Each element is integral to a production's revenue stream, and if any element in that revenue stream is removed, production begins to drop off. When the industry suffers because of digital theft – that is, when movies do not get made because of digital theft – our members suffer because they find themselves out of work.

We support the Bill's position on technical protection measures (TPMs) - both access control and copy control - because without them, new business models like Netflix would not be possible in Canada. Allowing TPMs to be broken for private purposes or other non-infringing uses would completely undermine these business models.

Our copyright law needs clarity. We have clear laws to stop people from hacking into computers or stealing satellite signals. We need the same safeguards for digital entertainment. We need to stop those who enable online copyright infringement, such as websites that facilitate illegal file-sharing, from operating in Canada. And we need to do this urgently because these illegal sites have a destructive impact on the Canadian film industry and throughout the entire Canadian economy, threatening all types of Canadian jobs and businesses.

For our members, copyright protection is about saving our jobs. Remuneration for most below-the-line crew, who are the people we represent, is paid on an hourly basis for time worked. We don't have job security or additional payment schemes that flow from the sale or exhibition of a work. Our members go to work, put in long hours, and take home a paycheque. Illegal downloading strips them of their income and their livelihood.

An Ipsos / Oxford Economics survey from 2010 concluded that movie theft has a destructive impact not only on the film industry, but throughout our entire economy, threatening all types of jobs and businesses. The report estimates that more than \$1.8 billion and 12,600 full-time equivalent jobs were lost across the entire Canadian economy in 2009-10 as a result of movie piracy.

Piracy is not a victimless crime. It's taking money out of workers' pockets and it's reducing the amount of work that is available. That's why we strongly support the objectives of Bill C-11. Canada urgently needs a legal framework for copyright that is forward-looking and flexible, which will help protect and create jobs, stimulate our economy, and attract new investment.

Copyright issues impact every country, and Canada is falling behind. We need to move forward with copyright reform to protect the thousands of Canadian workers in the entertainment industry who contribute so much to our economy and culture, and who are simply trying to make a living.