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## **Copyright Balance Can be Struck with Levies on Technologies and Distribution Platforms**

**Toronto – June 12, 2008** – Minister of Industry Jim Prentice and Minister of Canadian Heritage, Status of Women and Official Languages, and Minister for La Francophonie Josée Verner tabled today the government’s position on copyright legislation to address new and emerging media. The Writers Guild of Canada welcomes the government’s move to update legislation to address the new technologies and media that have changed the way Canadians access copyrighted material.

The WGC looks to the new legislation to enable consumers to more widely use copyrighted materials, and is disappointed that the Bill does not propose the introduction of levies on the technologies and distribution platforms that make copyright infringement more readily possible.

Writers Guild of Canada President Rebecca Schechter says that “screenwriters want their work to reach the widest audience possible. And, at the same time, we deserve to be fairly compensated for that content.”

“It’s possible to strike that balance,” says Maureen Parker, WGC Executive Director, “by imposing levies on copying devices and redistribution platforms – as has been done in Europe.”

In Europe and elsewhere, national copyright laws created a system of levies covering secondary use of audio-visual content entitling “authors” to remuneration. In 1999, the WGC founded the Canadian Screenwriters Collection Society (CSCS) to collect these levies on behalf of Canadian screenwriters whose works have been distributed internationally. And to date, the CSCS has collected more than \$3.3 million.

The WGC will be studying the Bill closely in the coming days, and will provide a more detailed response when it has considered fully the implications of the new legislation from the perspective of the creators of audio-visual content.

For more information, please contact David Kinahan, Writers Guild of Canada, at 416-979-7907 or 1-800-567- 9974, or by email at [d.kinahan@wgc.ca](mailto:d.kinahan@wgc.ca)

The Writers Guild of Canada (WGC) represents more than 1,800 professional English-language screenwriters across Canada. These are the talented people who create the distinctly Canadian entertainment we enjoy on our televisions, movie screens, radios and computers.