



29 March 2018

Filed via Intervention Comment Form

Mr. Claude Doucet
Secretary General
Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N2

Dear Mr. Doucet:

**Re: FairPlay Canada application re: Independent Piracy Review Agency
(Application No. 8663-A182-201800467)**

1. The Documentary Organization of Canada (DOC) is filing this letter in support of the application submitted by FairPlay Canada (FairPlay). If there is a public hearing, DOC does not wish to appear.
2. DOC is the collective voice of independent documentary filmmakers across Canada, a national non-profit arts service organization representing over 800 directors, producers and craftspeople from all provinces and regions of the country working in the documentary genre. DOC advocates on behalf of its members to foster an environment conducive to documentary production and strives to strengthen the sector within the broader film and television production industry. In so doing, DOC seeks to ensure that viewers in Canada and abroad have access to high quality, original programs reflective of current Canadian events, lives and values.
3. Film and television production spending is over \$8 billion in Canada, contributes \$12 billion to the national GDP, and supports over 170,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs. Documentary programs, created by Canadians for Canada and for the world, have been at the heart of our film & video culture for at least 70 years. From the beginnings of the CBC and the NFB to today's multi platform digital environment, documentaries have revealed and explained Canadians and Canadian sensibilities to the world and the world to Canada.
4. DOC members have seen first-hand the negative impact of the theft of digital content by illegal piracy websites. Online piracy has, and continues to have, a significant impact on the Canadian entertainment industry's overall revenues and viewership, ultimately affecting the industry's bottom line. With less and less money available, it has become harder and harder for our members, broadcasters, distributors and advertisers around the country to create products that are able to compete on an international level.
5. Piracy is a large and rapidly growing problem that reduces investment in great content and threatens all legal businesses in our industry. The FairPlay coalition is asking to introduce new rules that would disable access in Canada to the most egregious piracy sites, similar to what is done in countries like the UK, France, and Australia. We believe this proposal is an important step in the right direction to protect the rights of Canadian content creators and the businesses and jobs they support

6. Canada's current tools to combat piracy are not working. Piracy websites operate anonymously online from jurisdictions all over the world, making it difficult to identify the people responsible for them or take action against them. It is also unreasonable to expect an artist or a small Canadian production company to track down and sue multiple anonymous parties operating in other countries every time their content is stolen. This is something most DOC members simply do not have the resources to do. FairPlay is proposing a common-sense solution that would better support the rights of Canadian content creators and provide a modernized set of tools to prevent access to illegal pirated content.
7. By denying us fair compensation for their work, piracy reduces DOC members' ability to produce the unique content that makes Canada's creative landscape so rich. The FairPlay proposal is a proportionate response that reflects the modern realities of piracy. The proposed multi-step process strikes a good balance between action and accountability, and will ensure that only the most egregious piracy sites are targeted.
8. We hope the CRTC will approve this application and we look forward to working with the CRTC and other stakeholders to help implement this important initiative.
9. We thank the Commission for the opportunity to express support for this application.

Sincerely,



Mathieu Pierre Dagonas
Executive Director | Directeur General
Documentary Organization of Canada | Association des documentaristes du Canada
416.599.3844 x 1 | 1.877.467.4485 x 1 | mathieu@docorg.ca | www.docorg.ca |

cc. Erin Finlay, CMPA

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