

Minister of Innovation,  
Science and Industry



Ministre de l'Innovation,  
des Sciences et de l'Industrie

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H5

FEB 21 2020

FEB 27 2020

His Worship Fred Eisenberger  
Mayor of the City of Hamilton  
71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor  
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK	
FEB 28 2020	
REF'D TO	_____
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ACTION	<u>Council</u> April 1, 2020
	

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Thank you for your letter of December 11, 2019, which was co-addressed to my colleague, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, providing the text of the motion passed by Hamilton City Council in support of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council's campaign to increase access to digital publications in municipal libraries.

The Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage and the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology recently reviewed the *Copyright Act*. Together, the committees heard from an impressive number of witnesses with diverse perspectives on how the Act is working for Canada and Canadians. The Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage published the results of its review in *Shifting Paradigms*, while the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology released a report entitled *Statutory Review of the Copyright Act*.

In conducting their reviews, parliamentarians had the opportunity to hear from many library associations and to consider their submissions. In May 2018, the Toronto Public Library raised the specific concerns outlined by the Hamilton City Council motion. However, in their final reports, neither of the committees identified copyright as a barrier to public libraries or made recommendations in that regard.

Nonetheless, we are constantly monitoring the effectiveness of Canada's copyright regime and appreciate your bringing the issue of access to digital publications to our attention. Our government seeks to ensure that Canada's copyright marketplace framework laws foster vibrant cultural industries, fair remuneration for creators for the use of their works, and a modern and innovative marketplace. Effective policies enable the marketplace while protecting the interests of Canadian citizens. To that end, the Act has many specific exemptions that facilitate copying under appropriate circumstances by libraries, archives, and museums.

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Once again, thank you for writing on this important topic. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "N. Bains".

The Honourable Navdeep Bains, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P.