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Copyright holders have exclusive rights, preventing others from copying, distributing, publicly performing, adapting, or using the work in any way beyond viewing or reading without permission.



PURPOSE

- **Protects Original Works:** Copyright law grants creators exclusive rights to their original works, encouraging creativity and innovation
- **Economic Incentive:** Copyright law allows creators to monetize their work, ensuring they benefit financially from their creations



WHAT DOES COPYRIGHT COVER?

- **literary works** (e.g., books, computer programs, software, and other works consisting of text)
- **dramatic works** (e.g., movies, plays, screenplays, and scripts)
- **musical works** (e.g., musical compositions with or without words)
- **artistic works** (e.g., paintings, drawings, maps, photographs, sculptures, and plans)

WHEN DOES IT START?

Copyright protection is automatic the moment a work is created in a material form. While not required, registering with the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) provides legal benefits and a public record



HOW LONG DOES IT LAST?

In Canada, copyright expires **70 years after the death** of the creator. Before Dec. 22, 2022, it was 50 years. This change does not revive copyrights that expired before January 1, 2023

BUT NOT...

Copyright protects the *expression* of facts or ideas, not the facts or ideas themselves

EXCEPTIONS & LIMITATIONS

- **Fair dealing:** Permits limited use of copyrighted material without permission for the purpose of research, private study, education, parody, satire, review, or news reporting
- **Compulsory licensing schemes:** Makes copyrighted content (e.g., music) available for reuse without asking permission, but a fee is paid to the rights holder
- **Marrakesh Treaty:** Allows people with print disabilities to copy and modify works to engage with and understand content
- **Indigenous knowledge & cultural expressions:** Is not protected by copyright, but it is important to respect cultural rights, interests, and customs. Consult with relevant communities before reuse or posting

OTHER TYPES OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- **Patents:** Protect inventions and processes
- **Trademarks:** Protect brand names, logos, and slogans (e.g., McDonald's golden arches)
- **Trade Secrets:** Protect confidential business information (e.g., KFC's original recipe)
- **Design patents:** Protect the functional designs of objects (e.g., curved shape of a Coca-Cola bottle)
- **Geographical indications:** Protect place names for products only if they are produced there (e.g., champagne from France's Champagne region)
- **Moral rights:** Allow creators to preserve and protect their connection to their work including rights to attribution, integrity, and association

... But what about the public domain?

The public domain applies to works that are not subject to copyright because:

- the copyright expired
- it was never entitled to copyright
- creator put it into the public domain
- holder failed to maintain copyright

No permission is needed to copy, use, adapt, or share!



References

Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA). (2018). *Position statement: Indigenous knowledge in Canada's Copyright Act*. http://cfla-fcab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/CFLA-FCAB_Indigenous_knowledge_statement.pdf

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