



**INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES, MOVING PICTURE TECHNICIANS,
ARTISTS AND ALLIED CRAFTS OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS TERRITORIES AND CANADA**

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January 29, 2018

To: All Canadian Members
Re: IATSE Part of Canadian Anti-Piracy Coalition – CRTC Application Filed

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I'm writing to discuss a new approach that is being proposed by industry stakeholders in Canada to fight against piracy. As we all know, piracy is a job killer for our industry as it removes millions of dollars in revenue, which is how productions are financed. As funds are removed from producers, fewer productions get made. The IATSE is part of coalition that has applied to the CRTC for an anti-piracy initiative. There are about 25 co-applicants in the coalition, including ACTRA, the DGC, and the CBC. The application was filed January 29.

The proposal would mean that the CRTC could compel ISPs (Internet Service Providers), through legislation, to block access for any Canadian user to visit any website deemed a piracy site. This is already the practice in 20 countries, including the UK, France, and Australia, and has been shown to be effective. In the UK, disabling access to 53 piracy sites in 2014 led to a 90% reduction in visits to the sites, a 22% decrease in total piracy for affected users, and increased visits to legal services by 6-10%.

Under the proposal, the CRTC would create an independent, not-for-profit organization called the Internet Piracy Review Agency (IPRA), which would make recommendations to the CRTC on which sites should be blocked. Any interested party would make an application to IPRA, which would be served on the website and the ISPs. IPRA would receive submissions from all parties and, if required, conduct an oral hearing. IPRA would then make a recommendation to the CRTC on whether to add the site to the list of blatant piracy sites. The CRTC would make the final determination and then providing ISPs the list and updating it accordingly. Once a site is on the list, ISPs would be required to block any Canadian user from accessing that site, which could be located anywhere around the world. The Federal Court of Appeal would have legal oversight of this initiative, so this is not something that would, or should, be happening in a vacuum.

I want to make clear that this proposal in no way infringes on net neutrality. Both the IATSE and the coalition support open access to all legal content on the internet. Net neutrality protects only the flow of legal content on the internet, and is not impacted by this proposal. Again, we are talking about only blatant piracy sites, not sites where piracy might exist – meaning a site like Pirate Bay, which exists primarily to share copyrighted materials, not, for example, YouTube, where the majority of content is original and posted by the creator.

This is the latest piracy-fighting tool for Canada and I think it is important that our members understand what it is and how it works. Unfortunately, the media has reported some misinformation. I would like to be clear – the IATSE supports net neutrality. The IATSE will always fight to protect our industry and the employment of our members, and I hope you will join us in supporting this initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Lewis".

John Morgan Lewis
Director of Canadian Affairs
International Vice President