



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS**

900 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 833-7000

EDWIN D. HILL
International President

LINDELL K. LEE
International Secretary-Treasurer

February 13, 2009

Ken Georgetti
President
Canadian Labour Congress
2841 Riverside Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1V 8X7

Dear President Georgetti:

On behalf of the approximately 725,000 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I write in support of a resolution sponsored by the Media Caucus of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) that calls for broad legislative measures to address counterfeiting and copyright piracy in Canada.

Counterfeiting and copyright piracy – also known as intellectual property (IP) theft – costs the Canadian economy an estimated \$22 billion annually. In many cases, these are dollars taken directly from the pockets of union members. Even when the effect is less direct, IP theft robs Canadian workers of jobs and wages, as employer's income that could have been used to expand the workforce or pay higher salaries is siphoned-off by international organized crime.

The retention of IP rights remains one of the few examples of a legitimate and functioning market system, where workers are able to receive financial recognition for their abilities and the products they help create. This is particularly important given today's rampant outsourcing and offshoring, not to mention the rapidly shrinking economy.

However, IP rights can only be strong when a nation is willing to protect them. The Counterfeiting and Copyright Piracy Resolution sponsored by the Media Caucus calls on Parliament and the Senate to strengthen the Copyright Act. I support this resolution and respectfully ask your support as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edwin D. Hill".

Edwin D. Hill
International President

Intern

EDH:lgd