



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA



ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
DE LA TECHNOLOGIE DE L'INFORMATION

ITAC Industry Insider Newsletter

October 12, 2018

ITAC appears before Commons INDU to discuss Copyright Review

On Tuesday, October 2, ITAC's Vice President of Policy, Nevin French appeared before the Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology (commonly known as INDU) to discuss the ICT industry's perspective on the upcoming Copyright Review. The purpose of the presentation was to address: how the Copyright review will fit into the bigger picture of the digital economy in Canada and ways copyright rules and regulations need to be updated to take into account the growing Artificial Intelligence industry in Canada.

Many ITAC members participated in the lead-up to the appearance, including those active on the Legal Committee as well as the Policy and Advocacy Committee, all of whom provided feedback and commentary on their organization's position on this topic. When asked what their biggest concerns about copyright, the response was Artificial Intelligence (AI), including Machine Learning.

Broadly, this is what ITAC proposed:

- The INDU Committee acknowledging that the Copyright Act does not implicate the copying of lawfully accessed works for AI purposes.
- The Committee recommending that a new exception be added to the Copyright Act to clarify that copying, analyzing, and using lawfully acquired works and data to develop new knowledge does not require authorization of the copyright owner.

"At the end of the day, if we want Canada to maintain an international industry leadership position in AI, we need to get this policy right," said Mr. French. "The Copyright Act is a mandatory review, every five years. However, technology will continue to outpace the speed of legislation, and frankly is not one for timelines. Our overarching message is the Act needs a surgical update, and frankly will always need a scalpel and not a sledgehammer, given the rate of change."

You can view the INDU appearance on October 3rd here, as well as more information on the Copyright Review by INDU: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Committees/en/INDU/Meetings>

If you would like to learn more, or see ITAC's submission to the Commons, please contact Nevin French at nfrench@itac.ca.