

ICIREPAT is a program of international co-operation aimed at standardizing national patent-information and -retrieval systems and patent documentation to promote efficiency in patent searching and the international exchange of patent documents.

(4) *The Berne Convention (of 1886) for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Property (Copyright)*

Copyright protection is based on national law and is only effective in the country concerned. It is only through international treaties that protection in foreign countries is guaranteed. It is a principle of the Berne convention that each of the 70 member countries will grant to the citizens of the others the same protection for copyright works as it grants to its own citizens, and that this protection applies automatically as soon as the work is completed. The primary function of Canadian copyright law is to serve as an incentive to the domestic generation and dissemination of all forms of knowledge and information, but the policies underlying the law also take account of the importance to Canada of maintaining low-cost access to foreign information. Canada's interest in the Berne convention is inspired by the practical need to reconcile these conflicting concerns and by the threat to effective national and

international enforcement of copyright posed by the proliferation of cheap copying and recording devices and the use of satellites that make possible the instant world-wide communication and broadcasting of copyright works.

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WIPO is a microcosm of the world community. Its 77 members come from all types of nations — old and new, developed and developing. The ubiquity of intellectual property in the affairs of all nations ensures that it cannot escape the stresses and strains of the modern world. The current climate of urgently-needed change and the relevance of intellectual property to Canada's economic, social and cultural well-being demand its participation in the affairs of WIPO.

