

Canadian participation

Canada is a member of WIPO and of the Berne and Paris Unions. The Bureau of Intellectual Property of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs normally represents Canada at WIPO meetings.

Objects of Canadian membership
Membership in WIPO, which gives Canada a voice in the creation, amendment and administration of international treaties and conventions in the field of intellectual property, has the following objects;

- (i) to enable Canadian citizens to establish intellectual-property rights in other countries and secure the right to take legal action to protect their property from unauthorized use;
- (ii) to secure the right to represent Canada in international negotiations with the aim of achieving compatibility between the terms of intellectual-property conventions and Canada's economic, social and cultural goals.

Programs of interest

- (1) *Paris Convention (of 1883) for the Protection of Industrial Property (Patents, Utility Models, Inventors' Certificates, Trade-marks, Appellations of Origin, Industrial Designs)*

Each of the 83 members of the Paris

convention has its own laws governing the granting of exclusive rights in industrial property. Under the convention, each member agrees to provide foreigners essentially the same rights as its own citizens to obtain protection for patentable inventions, trade-marks and industrial designs, and to establish protection against unfair competition. The aim of the convention is to encourage industrialization, investment and trade through international co-operation in the field of industrial property.

(2) *Patent Co-operation Treaty*

This instrument, effective in 1978, is intended to reduce duplication of effort in national patent offices, to facilitate and reduce the costs of obtaining patent protection in several countries simultaneously, and to provide earlier public access to the technical information in new inventions.

(3) *International Co-operation in Information Retrieval Among Patent Offices*

Most national patent offices will grant a patent only if a search of the patent literature shows that an allegedly new invention has not already been patented anywhere in the world. The great number of patents issued and the broad range and complexity of the technical subject-matter of inventions present formidable problems of storage and retrieval of patent documents for this purpose.