

## **Extracts from the Conservative Party Election Platform – the True North Strong and Free: Stephen Harper’s plan for Canadians**

### **Protecting Creators and Consumers of New Ideas and Products**

A re-elected Conservative Government led by Stephen Harper will reintroduce federal copyright legislation that strikes the appropriate balance among the rights of musicians, artists, programmers and other creators and brings Canada's intellectual property protection in line with that of other industrialized countries, but also protects consumers who want to access copyright works for their personal use.

We will also introduce tougher laws on counterfeiting and piracy and give our customs and law enforcement services the resources to enforce them. This will protect consumers from phoney and sometimes dangerous products that are passed off as reliable brand-name goods.

### **Ensuring the CRTC Responds to Regional and Linguistic Needs**

A re-elected Conservative Government led by Stephen Harper will respect the unique needs of French-language broadcasting services in Quebec by guaranteeing alternating French- and English-speaking Chairpersons of the CRTC and that one of the two Vice-Chairpersons will be from each official language group. At least 25 per cent of the CRTC commissioners will be French-language speakers, appointed in consultation with Quebec and groups representing linguistic minorities. Hearings related to French language or Quebec broadcasters will be heard by panels consisting of a majority of French-language or Quebec CRTC members.

### **Supporting TV5 International French Language Broadcasting**

A re-elected Conservative Government led by Stephen Harper will increase funding for TV5, the international French-language television network, by \$25 million over the next five years.

### **Promoting Canada's Arts and Culture**

A re-elected Conservative Government led by Stephen Harper will maintain financial support for arts and culture at or above existing levels, while continuing to improve the effectiveness of allocations wherever possible. The current government has already invested more in arts and culture than the previous government, including an additional \$30 million for the Canada Council for the Arts, \$9 million to improve our national museums, \$30 million per year to support arts and heritage festivals and renewed \$60 million in additional funding in each of the last two years for the CBC. We will continue our record of strong support for the arts.

- A re-elected Conservative Government led by Stephen Harper will create a new, refundable tax credit on up to \$500 of eligible fees for children under 16 who participate in eligible arts or cultural activities, such as music lessons, drama or art classes.

- A re-elected Conservative Government will not reintroduce the Bill C-10 proposals to change film and video tax credit eligibility. Although these proposals were approved unanimously by the House of Commons, we will take into account the serious concerns that have been expressed by film creators and investors.