

Minister of
Innovation, Science and
Economic Development



Ministre de
l'Innovation, des Sciences et du
Développement économique

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H5

Mr. Jefferson Gilbert
Executive Director
Canadian Urban Libraries Council
349 Main Street
Bloomfield, Ontario K0K 1G0

Ms. Maureen Sawa
Chair, Canadian Urban Libraries Council
Chief Executive Officer, Greater Victoria Public Library
735 Broughton Street
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 3H2

Dear Mr. Gilbert and Ms. Sawa:

As you may know, on June 22, 2016, Bill C-11, *An Act to amend the Copyright Act (access to copyrighted works or other subject-matter for persons with perceptual disabilities)*, received Royal Assent, allowing Canada to accede to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled on June 30, 2016.

Given that Canada was the 20th country to ratify or accede to the Marrakesh Treaty—the total needed in order to bring it into force internationally—we now know that the Treaty will enter into force for Canada and the other member countries on September 30, 2016.

I am honoured that Canada is counted among the countries that, together, are enabling the coming into force of the Marrakesh Treaty internationally. The Marrakesh Treaty will improve access for Canadians with print disabilities and foster a more inclusive global community where print-disabled and visually impaired persons can more fully and actively participate in society and reach their full potential.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the members of Canada's copyright stakeholder community who expressed their support for Canada's accession to the Treaty and who provided submissions to the Department through the course of the negotiations on the Treaty, as well as during the legislative process for Bill C-11.

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Once the Marrakesh Treaty enters into force internationally in September, I urge the user community in Canada to take full advantage of the benefits that treaty membership offers, and I encourage publishers in Canada to continue to work toward making their products accessible for persons with perceptual disabilities. As the five-year parliamentary review of the *Copyright Act* approaches, expected in late 2017, I have asked my officials to monitor the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty, both in Canada and in other countries.

Thank you for your effort in making this important initiative a reality. I look forward to continuing to work together on copyright matters in the days to come.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "N. Bains".

The Honourable Navdeep Bains, P.C., M.P.