

PAARC

Pacific Association of Artist-Run Centres • www.paarc.ca

We are writing to you on behalf of the Pacific Association of Artist-Run Centres (PAARC) in regards to the Canwest Mediaworks Publications Inc. lawsuit against Gordon Murray and Carel Moiseiwitsch.

The membership of PAARC at its March 2, 2009 general meeting voted to support the defendants in this suit as we believe in the rights of Canadian artists to free expression. Artists' use of parody has long been considered a legitimate means of expressing ideas in a free and open society. Both parody and political satire constitute important elements of intellectual freedom and are important in provoking democratic debate.

PAARC was established in 1988 as an association representing artist run centres in British Columbia. Member organizations are artist initiated and artist controlled. The primary mandate of the society is to work towards the benefit of the practicing artist, within the context of artists' self-determination. PAARC is a member of ARCCC/CCCAA: Artist Run Centres and Collectives Conference / La Conférence des collectifs et des centres d'artistes autogérés. PAARC will be forwarding our position on the Canwest suit to our national colleagues.

PAARC believes the lawsuit targeting artists in British Columbia affects all artists, and encourages Canwest to withdraw its suit.

Date:

March 2, 2009

Signed:

Access Gallery
Alternator Gallery
Artspeak Gallery
Cineworks Independent Filmmakers' Society
Dynamo Arts Association
Gallery Gachet
grunt gallery
Kootenay School of Writing
Malaspina Printmakers Society
Ministry of Casual Living
Open Space
Or Gallery
Helen Pitt Gallery
Intermission Artists Society
Projectile Publishing
VIVO Media Arts Centre
W2 Community Media Arts Society
Western Front
Xchanges Artists' Gallery & Studios