



June 17, 2008

Leonard Asper, President
CanWest Global Communications Group
3100 CanWest Global Place, 201 Portage Avenue,
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3B 3L7

Dear Mr. Asper,

I am writing to you as President of the Canadian Library Association/Association canadienne des bibliothèques. One of the core principles of the Canadian Library Association (CLA) is the protection of intellectual freedom. CLA members have been monitoring very closely the CanWest civil case against those accused of having produced an unfair parody of the *Vancouver Sun*, and have expressed enormous concern about this case.

The general membership of the Canadian Library Association recently passed a resolution urging CanWest to drop its suit against Michael Briemberg and six unnamed others. The CLA membership passed this resolution in recognition of the fact that parody is a time-honoured means for the legitimate expression of ideas.

Some CLA members are, quite frankly, mystified that this suit is being pursued by a company whose primary focus relies on journalism. Librarianship and journalism have, on many occasions, stood shoulder-to-shoulder in order to fight for the principle that people have the right to know the information that may affect their decisions and their lives; and that creators have the right to express their views using a wide variety of techniques, including satire and parody.

As is often the case when inappropriate legal actions are launched, the nature of the action itself may cause far more damage than the alleged deeds of the defendants. The Canadian Library Association urges CanWest Global to defend the principle of intellectual freedom by dropping the civil suits noted.

I would be pleased to discuss this further with you. I can be reached c/o Hamilton Public Library, (905) 546-3215, kroberts@hpl.ca.

Yours sincerely,

Canadian Library Association

Ken Roberts
President

cc: David P. Church, Church and Company
Gail Asper, National Campaign Chair, Canadian Museum of Human Rights
Rob Holmes, President, BC Civil Liberties Association
Ken Gariepy, Chair, Canadian Library Association's Advisory Committee on Intellectual Freedom
Lynne Jordon, President, British Columbia Library Association
Karla Palichuk, President, Library Association of Alberta
Amy Rankin, President, Saskatchewan Library Association
H. Rainer Schira, President, Manitoba Library Association
Sam Coghlan, President, Ontario Library Association
Lynn Somers, President, Nova Scotia Library Association
Donna Bourne-Tyson, President, Atlantic Provinces Library Association



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