CPC Applauds Heritage Committee Recommendations on copyright reform

TORONTO, ONTARIO—(May 17, 2019)—The Canadian Publishers’ Council (CPC) commends the recommendations contained in the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage report Shifting Paradigms, released earlier this week in Ottawa. The report supports the most crucial recommendations put forward by CPC and its industry colleagues over the course of the CMA review, including amendments that would:

- clarify that fair dealing should not apply to educational institutions when the work is commercially available;
- promote a return to collective licensing through collective societies;
- review, harmonize and improve the enforcement of the statutory damages for infringement for non-commercial use in section 38.1(1) of the Copyright Act.

“The review of the CMA undertaken by the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage was a thorough and comprehensive approach to understanding the impact of the CMA on the lives and livelihoods of Canadians,” said Craig Swinwood, CPC Chair and CEO Harper Collins Canada and Harlequin. “We are heartened to see Shifting Paradigms reflect the most critical asks that we and our industry peers put forward to the committee, ones that support the commercial viability of educational resource creation.”

“We commend the hard work of the committee, driven in particular by committee Chair, MP Julie Dabrusin (L) and Vice-Chair MPs Pierre Nantel (NDP) and the Honourable Steven Blaney (C),” said CPC President David Swail. “Their commitment to this process and willingness to listen have served all Canadians well,” he added.

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About CPC:

Founded in 1910, the Canadian Publishers' Council (CPC) represents the interests of publishing companies that publish books and other media for elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, professional and reference markets, the retail and library sectors. Members employ more than 3,000 Canadians and collectively account for nearly three-quarters of all domestic sales of English-language books, with a significant presence in French-language publishing in Quebec. As importantly, member firms pay over $36 million in royalties to Canada's writers and creators.

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