

## Canada's Minister of Heritage turns his back on Canadian culture

When Minister Moore granted Amazon approval to establish a distribution centre on Canadian soil, he initiated the erosion of Canada's legislative control over its book industry.

"The Amazon go-ahead may look like a minor allowance that will increase market competition within Canada", said Erna Paris, Chair of The Writers' Union of Canada. "However, giving Amazon this foothold will establish a new precedent. It will open the door to other large-scale Internet commercial entities that will further pauperize Canada's already damaged bookselling environment and make it far more difficult for the works of Canadian authors to be featured and sold in their own country."

Although Minister Moore has announced that Amazon will invest \$20 million into the promotion of Canadian titles and other cultural initiatives, The Writers Union of Canada questions whether any remuneration can compensate for the certain loss of Canadian voices within Canada itself.

The Writers' Union of Canada is a national organization representing professional authors of books. Founded in 1973, the Union is dedicated to fostering writing in Canada, and promoting the rights, freedoms, and economic well being of all writers. For more information, please visit [www.writersunion.ca](http://www.writersunion.ca).

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