

The Writers' Union of Canada contacted international Writers' organizations and posed the following questions:

What are your specific concerns, if any, regarding how the settlement may affect writers who live outside the United States?

Are you recommending that writers in your country opt out of the Google settlement?

Are you planning to lobby your government, or one of its agencies, to intervene in some manner in the US court or with the U.S. government in an effort to protect the rights of copyright holders who live in your country?

Here is what we learned

The Society of Authors, Mark Le Fanu, General Secretary - London

- At the moment, I doubt that we will be intervening or making our position known to the court.
- Like everyone else, I suspect, we have been struggling to see the wood for the trees, analyzing the implications and endeavoring to explain them to members. I think that your Q & A paper is excellent.
- We have avoided making specific recommendations, although our interpretation suggests that authors have little to gain by opting out.
- My own inclination has been to be generally supportive of the Authors Guild, which seems to have battled magnificently with Google, without positively advising members not to opt out.
- My feeling is that, having explained the outcome and its implications as clearly as we can (no easy task, as you must have found), we should leave it to members and their agents to decide whether or not to opt out.
- At least it provides money for the Registry and a paying model.

NZ Society of Authors , Maggie Tarver, CEO/Executive Director - New Zealand

- The New Zealand Society of Authors (PEN NZ Inc.) has been watching the Google settlement with interest.
- We feel that the numbers of NZ books copyrighted in the US are so tiny and the sums of money likely to be involved similarly tiny. Consequently our involvement has not been as active as similar overseas organisations.
- We do have advised our members to opt in where appropriate – we believe that no-one here is going to sue Google in the US and those that opt in will at least get a few extra dollars.

Australian Society of Authors, Jeremy Fisher, Executive Director - NSW

- The Australian Society of Authors has provided it's members with an overview of the settlement and directed its members to check out the Australian *Copyright Agency Limited's (CAL) website for additional information on the Google settlement*

Free German Authors (The German writers Union), Dr. Jörg Bilke Leipzig

- No response

Union des écrivaines et des écrivains québécois, Pierre Lavoie, Directeur general

- You will find at (www.uneq.qc.ca), in "Members of l' UNEQ (Outstanding facts)", two lines on information that we circulated
- Contrary to ANEL (National association of the book publishers), we did not make a written recommendation to withdraw from the settlement or to participate in it
- We urged writers to verify the position of their editor and then make a decision on preserving their rights.
- We advised several of them to take part in the agreement, because it is a fact; an accomplished fact and that this payment applies only in the United States. Moreover, the writers have until 2011 to exclude their works, even if they took part in the payment.
- We worked in close cooperation with COPIBEC
- We do not intend to participate in the legal procedures next September, in New York, and don't let us believe that the Harper government will do anything in this direction.
- As for bringing a collective appeal in Canada, against Google, under the terms of the Law on the author's rights, we cannot even think of it (costs exorbitant, etc).

Original letter from Pierre Lavoie, Directeur general

Chère Deborah,

Nous avons informé régulièrement les membres de l'UNEQ, par des envois courriels, par la poste et par un atelier donné conjointement avec COPIBEC, ainsi que l'ensemble de la communauté littéraire, par le site de l'UNEQ.

Tu y trouveras (www.uneq.qc.ca), dans « Membres de l'UNEQ (Faits saillants) », deux liens sur l'information que nous avons transmise.

Contrairement à l'ANEL (l'Association nationale des éditeurs de livres), nous n'avons pas formulé de recommandation écrite à l'effet de se retirer du règlement ou d'y participer. Nous avons surtout insisté auprès des écrivains pour qu'ils vérifient la position de leur(s) éditeur(s) et qu'ils prennent une décision éclairée, s'ils ont conservé leurs droits. Verbalement, nous avons conseillé à plusieurs d'entre eux de participer à l'entente, puisqu'il s'agit d'un fait accompli et que ce règlement ne s'applique qu'aux États-Unis. De plus, les écrivains ont jusqu'en 2011 pour exclure leurs oeuvres, même s'ils ont participé au règlement.

Nous avons travaillé en étroite collaboration avec COPIBEC. Nous n'entendons pas être partie prenante aux procédures judiciaires de septembre prochain, à New York, et ne

croyons pas que le gouvernement Harper fasse quoi que ce soit en ce sens. Quant à intenter un recours collectif au Canada, contre Google, en vertu de la *Loi sur le droit d'auteur*, nous n'y pensons même pas (coûts exorbitants, etc.).

J'espère avoir pu éclairer quelque peu ta lanterne sur notre position...

Salutations amicales, et bon été !

A few links to international Google settlement stories

[Japan Times](#)

[InformationNote.pdf](#)

[Heidelberg Appeal](#)

[piegel Article](#)

<http://www.sysmod.com/praxis/prax0906.htm>

<http://blog.librarylaw.com/librarylaw/2009/04/google-book-settlement-orphan-works-and-foreign-works.html>

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