



SOCAN

Society of Composers, Authors and
Music Publishers of Canada

Société canadienne des auteurs,
compositeurs et éditeurs de musique

SOCAN BACKGROUNDER

Who we are: At SOCAN, we understand that the Canadian music industry is only as strong as the sum of its parts. We are proud to play a leading role, working with other organizations to ensure the long-term health of our members' livelihoods and the Canadian music industry as a whole. SOCAN is the Canadian copyright collective for the communication and performance of musical works. We ensure that our more than 100,000 Canadian members – songwriters, composers, lyricists and music publishers, and the hundreds and thousands of creators and publishers from around the world – are compensated when their music is broadcast or performed in public.

What we do: SOCAN provides access to one of the most commercially and culturally valuable assets – the world's repertoire of copyright-protected music for public performance. Our job is to protect, preserve and promote the performing rights of music creators.

We work hard to improve the status of our membership on a national and international level. Following are some of the initiatives that are helping us do just that:

- ⇒ Selling access to the world's repertoire of music to our licensees – music users (radio & television stations, cable systems, pay audio services, podcasters, concert halls, exhibitions, movie theatres, stores, offices, restaurants, bars, hotel and motel rooms, skating rinks, arenas, fitness clubs, airlines, etc.) – for the public performance and communication of those musical works in Canada;
- ⇒ Obtaining the licence fees, as approved by the Copyright Board, and distributing the royalties to our members and affiliated international organizations who, in turn, distribute to their members;
- ⇒ Distributing the royalties we receive from affiliated international organizations that are collected for the performances of Canadian musical works around the world;
- ⇒ Working closely with government to ensure Ottawa's decision-makers are familiar with our activities and the concerns of our members;
- ⇒ Presenting seminars and workshops for the education and awareness of our members;
- ⇒ Supporting music industry events to promote and celebrate our members' work; and
- ⇒ Publishing Words & Music/Paroles et Musique, a quarterly magazine distributed both nationally and internationally that showcases news, events, issues and profiles that are important to our members.

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When we were established: In 1990, with the merger of Canada's two previous performing rights organizations: The Composers, Authors and Publishers Association of Canada (CAPAC, formerly CPRS), founded in 1925, and The Performing Rights Organization of Canada (PROCAN, formerly BMI Canada Ltd.), established in 1940.

How we are administrated: SOCAN is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of, and elected by its members, who are composers, lyricists, songwriters and publishers. The current members of the Board are: Earl Rosen (President and Chairman of the Board); Pierre-Daniel Rheault (Past President); Gilles Valiquette (First Vice-Chair); Gary Furniss (Second-Vice Chair); Rosaire Archambault (Secretary); Stan Meissner (Treasurer); Victor Davies; Geneviève Côte; Jodie Ferneyhough; Edmund L. Glinert; Bill Henderson ; Craig Horton; Michael McCarty; Ben Mink; Glenn Morley; Marc Ouellette; Carol Ryan and Jim Vallance.

Membership: More than 100,000 Canadian composers, songwriters, lyricists and music publishers.

Revenues: In 2009, SOCAN collected more than \$249 million in domestic licence fees and royalties from affiliated international organizations. More than 30,000 Canadian composers and publishers shared in SOCAN distributions in 2009.

Where we are: Headquartered in Toronto, with offices in Montreal, Vancouver, Edmonton and Dartmouth, and represented by affiliated performing rights organizations in most countries worldwide.

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For more information, please contact:

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