



SOCAN

Society of Composers, Authors and  
Music Publishers of Canada

Société canadienne des auteurs,  
compositeurs et éditeurs de musique

# ROYALTIES – IT’S HOW MUSIC CREATORS MAKE THEIR LIVING

**“Everyone deserves to be paid for his or her work.”**

A simple enough idea, but sometimes it’s not actually easy to collect when your job is creating music as a composer, lyricist, songwriter or publisher.

Despite popular public opinion, the vast majority of music creators in Canada operate independently of record labels, and get paid independently too.

**So how do these music creators get paid? One penny at a time.**

When a song is played in public, the creators of that song (not just the performer) are entitled to be paid for that performance. The Copyright Board of Canada sets the fees charged for that use. These fees generally work out to be mere fractions of a penny per song.

So that’s why when a song gets played in public, the people that created that music need to collect their licence fees: their livelihood depends on the collection of small amounts of money from many places over time.

**What does SOCAN have to do with all of this?**

SOCAN is a member-owned collective – membership is made up of more than 100,000 Canadian songwriters, composers, lyricists and music publishers; the people who make the music that fills our everyday lives.

On behalf of its members and the hundreds and thousands of music creators around the world, SOCAN licenses the people and organizations that use music as part of their business, according to the tariffs established by the Copyright Board. SOCAN also provides the infrastructure to collect the licence fees from its licensees and distribute that money as royalties to its music creator members.

Without the services that SOCAN provides, Canada would be a much quieter country. But without music, would it still be such a great place to live?

**Where can I get more information?**

Check out the SOCAN Web site at [www.socan.ca](http://www.socan.ca) or call the Communications & Marketing department at (416) 445-8700 if you have further questions.