

# Copyright

A copyright (the right to copy) means that the owner is the only person who may copy his or her work or permit someone else to do so. Copyright lasts for the life of the author and 50 years following the author's death.

Copyrights cover: books, maps, lyrics, musical scores, sculptures, paintings, photographs, films, tapes, computer programs and databases. They do not cover slogans, names or mere titles. The author has the right to control any publication, production, reproduction and performance of a work or its translation.

Copyright is obtained automatically in Canada when you create an original work and is recognized in many other countries under various treaties ( Berne Copyright Convention, Universal Copyright Convention, World Trade Organization). If you choose, you can register your copyright with the federal government's Copyright Office. This process normally takes four weeks. The advantage of registration is that you receive a certificate, which could be used in court as your proof of ownership. The responsibility of watching to make sure other parties are infringing on your copyright rests solely with you.

## Generally the owner of the copyright is:

- a) the creator of the work
- b) the employer if the work was created in the course of employment
- c) the person who commissions a photograph, portrait, engraving or print for valuable consideration (payment)
- d) some other party if the original owner has transferred ownership

## For More Information:

**Internet:** [http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc\\_mrksv/cipo/help/faq\\_cp-e.html](http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc_mrksv/cipo/help/faq_cp-e.html)

[www.sb.gov.bc.ca/smallbus/workshop/protect/copyright.html](http://www.sb.gov.bc.ca/smallbus/workshop/protect/copyright.html)