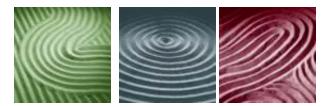


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TORONTO VANCOUVER CALGARY EDMONTON WATERLOO-WELLINGTON MARKHAM WHITEHORSE WASHINGTON, D.C.

Charities and Not-For-Profit Law Seminar

Intellectual Property and Privacy Issues

by Eve C. Munro



# INTRODUCTION TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

#### WHAT IS IT?

- Trade-marks
- Copyrights
- Patents
- Trade secrets/confidential information

**AREAS OF CONCERN FOR CHARITIES** 



# TRADE-MARKS BRANDING ISSUES FOR CHARITIES

- Organization name
- Program names
- Logos/designs
- Event names
- Elements of fund raising methods
- · Use of others' marks



#### **TYPES OF TRADE-MARKS**

- Ordinary marks
- Certification marks
- Distinguishing guise



# WHAT MAKES A STRONG TRADE-MARK?: DEVELOPING YOUR MARKS

Stronger marks receive greater protection and are easier for the public to associate with your services.

#### Registrability Issues

- General and descriptive marks
- Suggestive trade-marks
- Fanciful and arbitrary marks



#### PROTECTING MARKS THOUGH REGISTRATION

- 1. Trade-mark registration
- 2. Section 9 recordal
  - Universities
  - Public authorities

#### Differences in:

- Process
- Effect
- Cost



# NEW DEVELOPMENTS RE USE OF SECTION 9 PROTECTION

- Previous practice of Registrar of Trade-marks
- Recent decisions
  - Ont. Assoc. of Architects v. Assoc. of Architectural Technologists (F.C.A.)
  - Can. Jewish Congress v. Chosen People Ministries Inc. and the Registrar of Trade-marks (F.C.)
- New test for public authority status: significant degree of government control and public benefit
- Test requires ongoing government supervision



# NEW DEVELOPMENTS RE USE OF SECTION 9 PROTECTION

#### WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- Previously obtained section 9 recordals may not now be effective
- Need to protect these marks by trade-mark registration



### **COPYRIGHT**

#### WHAT IS COPYRIGHT?

Series of rights created by statute

#### REGISTRATION

- Not necessary for copyright to exist
- Benefit

#### **JURISDICTION**

• Territorial; federal legislation in Canada



## **COPYRIGHT** (cont'd)

#### **TERM**

For most works life of author plus 50 years

#### **OWNERSHIP**

- General rule: author is first owner
- Employees v. contractors

#### **INFRINGEMENT**

#### **EXCEPTIONS**

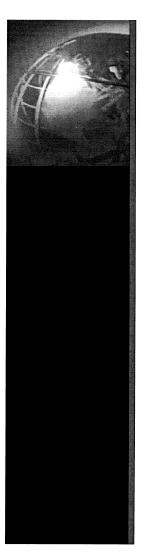
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## **COPYRIGHT** (cont'd)

#### **AREAS OF CONCERN FOR CHARITIES**

- Operation specific concerns
- Web site content
  - Creating content
  - Acquiring rights to others' content
- Fundraising campaigns/special events
  - Graphics and other printed material
  - Music
  - Entertainment
- Production of promotional merchandize eg. Tshirts, coffee mugs, posters, video or digital recordings



#### OTHER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- Consider specifics of operations
- Consider whether have technology tools that could be licensed
- Confidential Information consider need for confidentiality and noncompetition agreements:
  - Lists of donors
  - List of suppliers
  - Know-how and processes



## **IP STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT**

- 1. Conduct an IP Audit
  - Identification of IP
  - Ensure necessary rights have been obtained
- 2. Protection
  - Register
  - Appropriate agreements



# IP STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT (cont'd)

#### 3. Use

- Consistent use of trade-marks
- Trade-mark notices
- Copyright notices
- In-house knowledge management and education
- License all other users

#### 4. Infringement

- Trade-mark watch services
- Prompt notice to infringers
- Defense of IP rights



# BENEFITS OF A STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Strategically managed IP portfolio can assist in resolving disputes without resorting to litigation by virtue of the strength of position achieved
- Shields from infringement claims
- Licensing can generate revenue



# CANADA'S NEW PRIVACY LAWS: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CHARITABLE AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT SECTORS

- All Canadian provinces have access to information and protection of privacy legislation for information held by the public (governmental) sector
- Purpose of new legislation is to regulate the collection, use and disclosure of personal information in the private sector



#### **BACKGROUND**

- In English common-law there is no traditional right to privacy; in health sector in Canada there developed a duty of confidentiality
- With the growth of e-commerce and use of the Internet there is an increased level of concern over privacy
- European Union has implemented its Data
   Protection Directive prevents data exchange between members of the European Union and jurisdictions without adequate privacy protection



# PERSONAL INFORMATION PROTECTION AND ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS ACT ("PIPEDA")

#### Implementation Schedule:

- January 1, 2001 Applies to federally regulated undertakings and interprovincial and international transfers of information (except for personal health information)
- January 1, 2002 Applies to personal health information in above areas
- January 1, 2004 Act purports to apply to all organizations whether federally or provincially regulated unless a province enacts comparable legislation



#### **APPLICATION**

Subject to the staged implementation PIPEDA applies:

- To every organization in respect of personal information that the organization collects, uses or discloses in the course of commercial activities;
- to federal works, undertakings or businesses with respect to personal information about employees.



#### **DOES NOT APPLY TO:**

- Government
- Information collected for domestic purposes
- Journalistic, artistic or literary purposes
- Publicly available information (to be specified in regulations)

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#### **KEY DEFINITIONS**

"commercial activity" means any particular transaction, act or conduct or any regular course of conduct that is of a commercial character, including the selling, bartering or leasing of donor, membership or other fundraising lists.

"Personal Information" means information about an identifiable individual, but does not include the name, title or business address or telephone number of an employee of an organization



#### **APPLICATION TO CHARITIES**

#### PIPEDA:

- Before January 1, 2004 PIPEDA will apply to few charities or not-for-profits
- Applies or will apply to personal information gathered in the course of commercial activities: likely any revenue generating activity

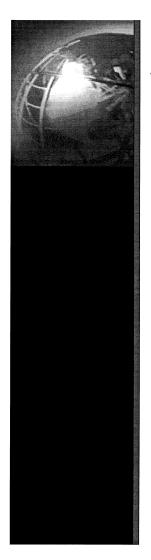


#### **APPLICATION TO CHARITIES**

- Commercial activities specifically include the selling, bartering or leasing of donor, membership or other fundraising lists
- Does not apply to non-commercial activities of charities not-for-profits

#### PROPOSED B.C. LEGISLATION:

 Draft legislation not yet publicly made available but B.C. Consultation Paper states an intention that legislation not be restricted to commercial activities



## **APPLICATION TO CHARITIES (cont'd)**

CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS SHOULD ASSUME THEIR TREATMENT OF PERSONAL INFORMATION WILL BE SUBJECT TO REGULATION IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE:

- Even where a province enacts similar legislation PIPEDA continues to apply to federal undertakings and international or interprovincial trade in personal information
- B.C. legislation will likely apply to charities and not-for-profits
- Donors will expect organizations to comply with federal or provincial requirements as a matter of course



- ACCOUNTABILITY appoint a "Chief Privacy Officer"
- 2. **IDENTIFY PURPOSES** should be relatively specific; at or before the time the information is collected

Section 5(3) must be purposes that a reasonable person would consider are appropriate in the circumstances



#### 3. CONSENT

- obtain appropriate consent for collection, use or disclosure, for the purposes identified
- appropriate consent varies with the sensitivity of the personal information
- consent cannot be a condition for the supply of a product (unless necessary for the supply)
- Exceptions: for each of collection, use and disclosure



- **4. LIMITING COLLECTION** amount and type of personal information collected is limited to the identified purposes
- 5. LIMITING USE, DISCLOSURE, AND RETENTION - new purposes or disclosures require further consent



- **6. ACCURACY** maintain data as required by the purposes
- 7. SAFEGUARDS protect against, loss, theft, or unauthorized access
- **8. OPENNESS** disclosure policies and practices shall be readily available



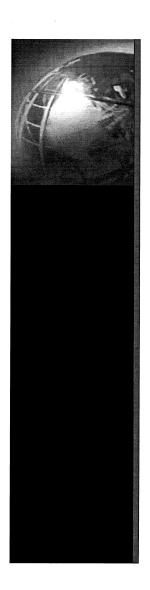
#### 9. INDIVIDUAL ACCESS

- on request individuals to be informed of the existence, use, and disclosure of their personal information, and to be given access
- response to be within a reasonable time (generally not later than 30 days after receipt)
- response to be a minimal or no costs. Any charges to individual must be approved by the individual in advance



#### 10. CHALLENGING COMPLIANCE

- Complaint procedure required
- All complaints to be investigated



#### **REMEDIES UNDER PIPEDA**

- Complaint to Privacy Commissioner who reports but has no power to make orders
- Audits of an organization's personal information management practices conducted by Commissioner
- Action to Federal Court for:
  - compliance order
  - publication order
  - damages, including for humiliation



### **COMPLIANCE STRATEGIES**

Board should decide to implement privacy protection

- 1. Appoint a compliance officer
  - Develop a plan



### **COMPLIANCE STRATEGIES** (con't)

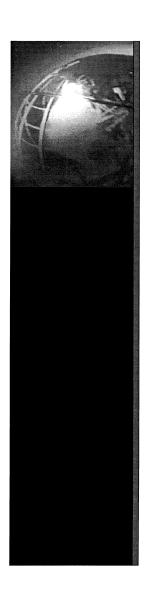
#### 2. Conduct a Privacy Audit

- What information is being collected, used, held or disclosed?
- What is "personal information"?
- Where is it identify jurisdictions
- Areas to consider:
  - member files
  - fundraising lists and activities
  - online operations
  - security services
  - third party suppliers



### **COMPLIANCE STRATEGIES** (cont'd)

- 3. Develop a List of Approved Purposes
  - used for obtaining consent
- 4. Prepare Privacy Policies, Brochures and Consent Forms
  - decide on type of consent required in specific areas
- 5. Consider a New Filing System
  - different files for different purposes



## **COMPLIANCE STRATEGIES** (cont'd)

#### 6. Initiate the Privacy Plan

- obtain consents from existing members
- put safeguards in place
- have access costs and complaint policies ready
- train staff

#### 7. Maintain Compliance

- ongoing training
- response plan for breaches and complaints
- compliance audits



## CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAW SEMINAR

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND PRIVACY ISSUES

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