

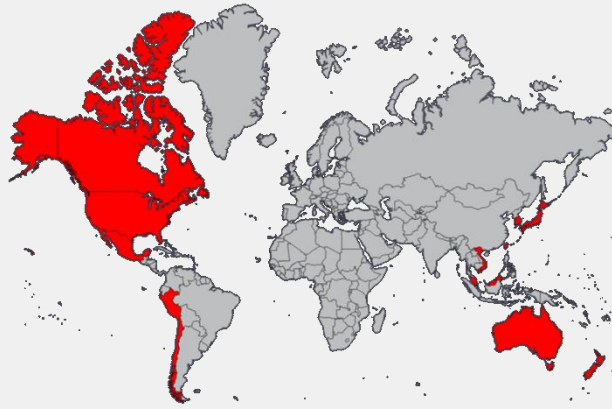
# What the Trans Pacific Partnership Could Mean For Canada

13  
November  
2013

## Intellectual Property Chapter Leaked

On 13 November 2013, Wikileaks released a working copy of the IP chapter from August 2013, confirming many people's worst fears about what the TPP could mean for our future.

## A Trade Deal Gone Awry



The TPP is a trade deal currently being negotiated by Canada, the United States, Mexico, Chile, New Zealand, Australia, Taiwan, Singapore, Peru, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Japan, and South Korea. Negotiations are happening **behind closed doors**, and records of the proceedings are being kept secret. The only parties privy to negotiations are delegates from participating countries and private corporate lobbyists. This means that we have no idea what is happening during these negotiations or what our country may be agreeing to behind closed doors.

## What could the Intellectual Property chapter change?

### Length of Copyright Terms

It could **increase the length of copyright terms to anywhere from the life of the author plus 70 to 100 years**. Now, Canadian copyright law protects works for the life of the author plus 50 years. That means that works might have to wait another 20 to 50 years before they can enter the public domain.

### Temporary Copies

Making any copies of copyrighted material, even temporary ones that your computer needs to make to be able to view web pages or buffer videos, could become illegal as the IP chapter bans *all* copies, no matter how long they last. **The internet as we know it cannot function without these copies.**

### Digital Rights Management

TPP negotiators want to make it illegal to circumvent digital rights management measures, no matter what the reason is for doing it. One consequence of this rule is that **those with disabilities might not be able to access items they legally own**, since the programs they need to convert digital items into things like audio and braille require breaking digital locks.

### Criminal Penalties

If this deal goes through, penalties for breaking copyright could be elevated to the criminal level. This means that one possible result of copyright infringement could be a **prison sentence**. It doesn't matter how small the infringement is or whether or not it's done for commercial purposes, it's all criminal. Are you ready to be considered a criminal?

### Healthcare Costs

Changes to patent law suggested in the TPP will make prescription drugs much more expensive by changing rules about what kinds of medicines can be awarded new patents and how long before generic versions of drugs can enter the market. Patent changes could also make it legal to patent surgical procedures, meaning that your doctor might have to make tough decisions between your health and money as he decides whether or not to use a patented procedure to save your life.

### The Canadian Disadvantage

Canada joined into TPP negotiations late. As a penalty, we have been given a second-tier status at the negotiating table, with serious disadvantages attached to the conditions of entry. The first condition is that Canada cannot reopen any chapters in the agreement which had already been agreed upon before we entered into the deal in 2012. That means that right from the beginning we were agreeing to things about which we had no say. The second condition is that Canada will never have any veto power in the agreement. If the other countries all agree to something, Canada's position on the issue has no meaning. At the end of it all, if Canada does not feel comfortable with the final agreement, the only option is to back out of the deal entirely, which is not a very likely outcome.



## What can we do to stop it?

- **Raise awareness:** Letting people know about the potential implications of the TPP is the biggest way we can fight back right now. This deal is one of the world's best kept secrets, and it's time to change that. Post about it on social media and talk about it to anybody who will listen. The more people that know about it, the more that can be done to stop it.
- **Stay updated:** Keep your eyes peeled for new updates about this deal. Watching the news and checking out Canadian blogs like OpenMedia.ca and MichaelGeist.ca is a great way to keep track of the current state of affairs with the TPP. After the deal is signed, it will be up to our government to ratify the new laws, and that's the time when a real Canadian resistance can actually be mounted.