

Checklist for Written Contracts

The *Arts professions Act* increases protection for artists and their intellectual property by requiring written contracts between those who engage the services of artists and the artists themselves. The legislation requires the following basic elements be included in each contract:

- the legal names of the engager and the professional artist;
- the effective date of the contract;
- the work, production or enterprise that forms the object of the contract;
- the financial consideration due to the professional artist and the terms and conditions of payment, including the date of the delivery of the work or production or the conduct of the enterprise and the date of the delivery of payment;
- the frequency with which the engager shall report to the professional artist on the transactions made with respect to the work, production or enterprise that is subject to the contract and for which financial consideration remains owing after the contract is entered into;
- the notice and, if applicable, the compensation required if either the engager or the professional artist terminates the contract before its completion;
- dispute resolution mechanisms;
- any transfer of right and any grant of licence consented to by the professional artist, including:
 - a. the purposes of the transfer of right or grant of licence;
 - b. the term of the transfer of right or grant of licence; and
 - c. the jurisdiction in which the transfer of right or grant of licence applies;
- whether any licence granted to an engager is transferable to a third party;
- any limitations on the use of the work or production or the conduct of the enterprise;
- if applicable, any waiver of moral rights within the meaning of section 14.1 of *The Copyright Act (Canada)*; and
- in the case of a contract between an engager and an Aboriginal professional artist, the protocols respecting the use of Aboriginal symbols or artifacts or matters of importance to Aboriginal people.

ADDITIONAL CHECKLIST FOR WRITTEN CONTRACTS

If a written contract entered into reserves an exclusive right of the engager over any future use of the work or production of the professional artist, the contract must include the following elements in addition to the elements listed above:

- a description of the work or production;
- a description of the process that the professional artist must follow to terminate the contract after the expiration of a specified period;
- a date on which any exclusive right of the engager over any future use of the work or production of the professional artist or any right of the engager to the work or production expires; and
- any additional elements prescribed in the regulations (at this time there are none).