

A quick rundown of the various symbols you may come across and what each one means.



Know your rights Copy rights

Copyright

Copyright defines the rights a creator has for a work they have created. These rights are economic, social and moral and are enshrined in Canadian law.



Copyleft

Copyleft refers to a group of licences that allow creators to waive some of their rights. Different versions of these licences exist, giving creators the freedom to determine which rights they would like to maintain. All future derivatives of the original work must also use the same license, meaning that the same user freedoms are passed on.

Creative Commons

Creative Commons is a group of specific Copyleft-style licences that can easily be applied to



digital works and websites. The licence's logo links to the legal details of a specific kind of licence. The sets of restrictions that creators can place on users can include any combination of the following:

- **Attribution** – must retain original attribution
- **Non-Commercial** – no commercial derivatives
- **No Derivatives** – must retain its original form
- **ShareAlike** – derivatives must be shared under the original licence

GNU General Public Licence (v.3)

This copyleft licence applies to computer software and is what makes the Free Software and Open Source program movements possible. The licence ensures that essential freedoms are preserved even when the program code is altered.



Permissive Licence (BSD-Style Licence)

Unlike copyleft licences, BSD-Style licences have fewer restrictions and allow for proprietary use.



These licences are referred to as permissive licences—where the derivatives of the work do not have to be covered by the BSD licence. The core parts of Apple's operating system are covered by BSD-style licences, for example.

Public Domain

Public domain works are not owned or controlled by anyone. Copyrighted works in Canada currently fall into the public domain 50 years after the death of the creator. Many works in the public domain can be found for free online at www.archive.org.

