

MROC & Neighbouring Rights Royalties

Most musicians know that songwriters collect money from SOCAN for radio airplay of their songs, but many musicians remain unaware that they are entitled as musicians to performers' royalties for the radio airplay of their recordings. Since 1998, Canadian law has recognized the performing right in a performer's performance. As a musician or vocalist, you are entitled to **Neighbouring Rights Royalties** when a recording on which you performed gets radio airplay. These performance royalties are completely distinct from, and in addition to, any SOCAN royalties to which you as a songwriter are entitled.

Neighbouring Rights Royalties are paid to performers based on tariffs covering commercial radio, satellite radio, pay audio and Canada's public broadcaster CBC/SRC; and the use of recordings as background music in commercial/public venues. Tariffs for additional royalties are continually in the works.

In Canada, it is also legal for individuals to copy recorded music for their own personal use. To make up for a portion of the lost sales due to this private copying, all rights holders, including performers, are entitled to royalties. These royalties are generated by a levy payable on blank audio media sold in Canada, including recordable CDs. Distributions are based on a blend of radio airplay and album sales.

Musicians' Rights Organization Canada (MROC) collects its share of Neighbouring Rights and Private Copying Royalties and distributes this remuneration to its performer assignees. MROC has already distributed these royalties to thousands of assigned performers across all musical genres, in Canada and beyond.

Their website www.musiciansrights.ca provides useful information on neighbouring rights and private copying royalties and on other revenue streams available to performers. There you'll find the forms you'll need to get signed up. They can also mail you an information package and forms. You can contact them at: **Musicians' Rights Organization Canada (MROC)**, 1200 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 505 Toronto, ON M3C 1H9; info@musiciansrights.ca or 1-855-510-0279.

**This information has been taken from an MROC brochure which is about to be released. Used by permission.*