



Policy Title: Non-Educational Movie Viewing on TWU Campuses

Parent Policy	None
Policy Administrator	Director of Residences, Student Life & Assistant Librarian, Copyright Compliance & Education
Approving Body	Executive Leadership Team
Approval History	2025-11-04; ELT 2025-04-08; ELT

Purpose:

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Clarify the use of cinematographic works in any non-academic (i.e., outside of the classroom) programming that occurs on Trinity Western University's campuses; and
- Ensure compliance with copyright laws in Canada.

Scope of this Policy:

All non-academic use of cinematographic works shown on Trinity Western University campuses by students, faculty, and staff.

Policy Statement:

The use of cinematographic works (partial or full-length) in any other public or formal venue, whether it is a dorm group, club, faculty social, seminar or workshop, also falls under the licence agreement carried by the TWU library. Movie selections for your event must adhere to the process detailed in the Procedures document (linked below).

Non-academic movie screenings on Trinity Western University's campuses using streaming platforms like Netflix, Amazon, Prime, or Apple TV are prohibited under their terms of service, which restrict use to personal, private viewing, unless public performance rights are obtained in accordance with Canadian copyright laws.

Additional Canadian movie copyright administration can be found on the Procedures linked below.

Definitions:

Copyright: The exclusive legal right granted to the creator or owner of an original work (e.g., literary, artistic, musical, or dramatic work) to reproduce, distribute, perform, communicate to the public, or adapt the work, and to authorize others to do so. Under the *Copyright Act (R.S.C., 1986, c. C-42)*, copyright in Canada automatically applies to original works upon creation, lasting typically for the life

of the creator plus 70 years after their death (as of the 2022 amendment). It protects the expression of ideas but not the ideas themselves.

License: A legal agreement granting permission to use a copyrighted work in specific ways, such as reproducing, distributing, or streaming it, under defined terms. In Canadian copyright law, a license can be express (written or verbal) or implied, and it may be exclusive or non-exclusive. Section 13(4) of the *Copyright Act* allows copyright owners to assign or license their rights. For example, a streaming platform may obtain a license from a copyright holder to make content available to users, specifying scope, duration, and compensation (e.g., royalties).

Platforms: Digital services or technologies (e.g., websites, apps, or online services like YouTube, Spotify, or Netflix) that facilitate the distribution, access, or streaming of copyrighted content. Platforms are not explicitly defined in the *Copyright Act* but are subject to its provisions, particularly regarding liability for hosting or transmitting copyrighted material. Under s. 31.1 platforms may qualify for safe harbour provisions as internet intermediaries if they act as mere conduits, cache content, or host user-uploaded material without knowledge of infringement. The *Online Streaming Act* (Bill C-11, 2023) also imposes obligations on platforms to support Canadian content.

Streaming: The act of transmitting or receiving digital content, such as music, video, or other media, over the internet in real time, allowing users to access the content without downloading a permanent copy. In Canadian copyright law, streaming is considered a form of “communication to the public by telecommunication” under s. 2.4(1.1) of the *Copyright Act*. It requires authorization from the copyright owner, typically through a license, unless an exception (e.g., fair dealing) applies.

Procedures: See procedures for AD 1-05 Non-Educational Movie Viewing on TWU Campuses

Child Policies: None

Other Related Policies: None