

**April 2007**

**SOCAN** (Society of Composer, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada)

CWDIA (The Canadian Western Dance Instructors Association) negotiated with SOCAN with regard to licensing the use of the music used for Square Dancing and a deal was struck that was very favourable to the Canadian Square Dance world.

The people who compose music and songs do this for a living and they make their money from royalties collected when their music is played. Square Dance record companies pay for a mechanical licence to reproduce the music they use. This mechanical license is issued by a different authority (CMRRA in Canada) and does not cover the use of the music when the caller plays a record at a Square Dance. The SOCAN licensing is how royalties are paid.

CWDIA and Socan agreed that callers and cuers could get a licence under **Tariff 19** (Fitness Activities) which costs (2007) \$68.48 annually and gives callers the licence to use music when they call.

However, when a club puts on a special dance such as a Jamboree, a **Tariff 8** (Receptions, Conventions, Assemblies and Fashion Shows) licence is required.

It is normally the responsibility of the owners of the hall where the event takes place to obtain this licence - and the cost would probably be added to the hall rental. Halls that hold regular events requiring a Tariff 8 would pay their licence fees quarterly and if they are doing this, would probably explain this to the renter or include it in their rental fees.

However, it seems that the Square Dance Clubs or Associations that stage Jamborees and Special Dances, have been applying for the Tariff 8 licence for the event and this seems reasonable when special dances are held in venues that do not normally take out a Tariff 8 licence and I believe that this was part of the understanding between SOCAN and CWDIA.

So, if you are holding a special event outside of your normal club dancing and at a different location, I would urge you to check if the venue owners have a Tariff 8 licence and if not then offer that the club or Association staging the event apply for one - after all, Square Dancers are honest and law-abiding - right?

The fees are as follows:

Hall capacity 1 - 100 people \$41.13 + GST      101 - 300 people \$59.17 + GST

301 - 500 people \$123.38 + GST

Over 500 people \$ 174.79 + GST

The Tariff 8 licence application form can be down loaded from the SOCAN website:

**[www.socan.ca](http://www.socan.ca)**

