

# Let Justice Roll

Implement the  
*United Nations Declaration on  
the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*



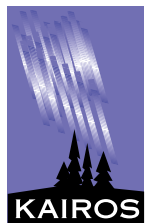
People arrive on Parliament Hill with banners during the KAIROS Roll with the Declaration event in 2011. Photo by Katherine Masterton

[www.kairoscanada.org/UNDRIP](http://www.kairoscanada.org/UNDRIP)

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# Let Justice Roll: Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Canadian churches are committed to the full implementation of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as a crucial means for achieving reconciliation between Indigenous and settlers in Canada.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) named the *UN Declaration* in 16 Calls to Action.

In Call to Action 43 the TRC called upon the Government of Canada to “fully adopt and implement” the *UN Declaration* as “the framework for reconciliation.” Call to Action 44 calls upon the Government of Canada to “develop a national action plan, strategies, and other concrete measures to achieve the goals of the *United Nations Declaration*.”

This resource provides a guide for taking action to ensure that the Government of Canada takes the necessary steps to revise federal legislation so that all relevant legislation is consistent with the *UN Declaration*. This resource includes:

- A theological reflection.
- Some Frequently Asked Questions about the *UN Declaration*.

- A guide for arranging delegations to visit your Member of Parliament.
- A resource for congregations on how to produce banners declaring their commitment to reconciliation.
- A list of other print and video resources.

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**This campaign is coordinated by members of KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives in collaboration with Mennonite Church Canada (Indigenous Relations) and Canadian Baptist Congregations.**

**March, 2017**



Press conference: Churches respond to TRC deadline on Call to Action #48 – March 30, 2016. From left to right the Most Rev Fred Hiltz, Primate, Anglican Church of Canada; Major Shari Russell, Salvation Army; the Rev Susan Johnson, National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; Dr. Marie Wilson, Commissioner, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada; the Right Reverend Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Bishop; the Rev. Karen Horst, Moderator, Presbyterian Church in Canada; Manuela Popovici, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and the Right Reverend Jordan Cantwell, Moderator, United Church of Canada.

# A Reflection on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

**Jennifer Henry,**  
**Executive Director, KAIROS**

The earliest of our peace and friendship treaties between First Nations and the Crown are said to reflect Indigenous Elders' visions for a shared life together in mutuality and respect. For Indigenous Peoples, the treaties are sacred agreements to share land and resources, with land understood as the Creator's gift. Today, churches are at different places in addressing the Doctrine of Discovery. Some have formally repudiated the Doctrine, while others are beginning a process of critical reflection. In any call to repudiate this Doctrine, it is important to ask what will take its place? In Canada, the answer certainly includes honouring the treaties signed between Indigenous Peoples and the Crown, and implementing the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. National Indigenous Anglican Bishop Mark MacDonald reminds us that through the treaties we made relatives of one another. Dr. Marie Wilson,

Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission speaks of treaties with reference to what we might call, in the language of faith, a covenant. Our chronic violations in treaties have been settler<sup>1</sup> failures and betrayals in our covenantal responsibilities.

Remember the words of Jeremiah: *But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.* (Jer 31:33) Jeremiah wrote against a backdrop of failure and despair, speaking of a new covenant that could be written on peoples' hearts, describing a transformation of the human heart so great that the people would be enabled to keep the covenant. It would be unbreakable.

The courage of residential school Survivors has given us truth and through that truth the only possibility of a new and reconciled future. It is our turn to respond with contrite hearts, to repudiate past doctrines of domination, to reject the ideas that linger and to claim a future of hope and commitment. Let us begin to renew those living treaties, write them on our hearts, change our lives to fulfill the obligations and possibilities of shared life together in this land.

Throughout the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Summary Report and the Calls to Action, the Commissioners affirmed the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as the framework for reconciliation in Canada. We can read this also as a "doctrine," written by Indigenous Peoples—a "doctrine" not of discovery but of recovery, dignity, and rights. As we reject doctrines of domination let us embrace the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as a context for theological reflection, as a new legal framework, and as principles to guide our way of thinking, and therefore our way of acting. Might the *UN Declaration* be that unbreakable covenant that can guide our way to a shared future?

May churches in Canada be travelers on a common road, seeking reconciliation. May we pray the Calls to Actions through our words and deeds. May we renew covenants with Indigenous peoples. More than anything else, may we sustain hope, that despite a brutal past, we can and we will be different. The most humbling reality is that after all that has happened, for the most part, Indigenous Peoples continue to offer gracious welcome, seeking partnership in a just transformation of this land. To that humbling invitation of true reconciliation, an expression of profound grace, how can we refuse?

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## Prayer:

*Gracious and loving God, forgive us for what we have done and what we have left undone in our country's journey with Indigenous Peoples. Our failure to live up to the treaties, to live up to the dignity of all peoples, to live up to your dreams*

*of justice have created a rupture in our nation and a deep wound in our hearts. Bring us a change of heart, a restored will, and a deepened resolve for a renewed and hopeful future.<sup>2</sup> With your enabling and empowering love, help us to begin to live in honour and*

*mutual respect. Write this covenant of right relations on each of our hearts, and through the power of your Spirit, make it an enduring bond of love and justice. In the name of the One who loved every person, every creature, into being, we pray. Amen.*

<sup>1</sup> The word "settler" is used here to describe multi-generational immigrants to Canada whose ancestors were collaborators or protagonists in the colonial process. "Newcomers" is sometimes used to characterize citizens or non-citizens who now reside in Canada but they and their families were born elsewhere.

<sup>2</sup> Walter Brueggemann, *Like Fire in the Bones*, ed. Patrick Miller (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006), 152.

# Questions and Answers about the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

## 1. What is the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*?

The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* is an international human rights instrument adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2007 after more than two decades of negotiations with representatives of Indigenous Peoples and States. The *UN Declaration* articulates “the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world.” (Article 43)

The *UN Declaration* applies to the 370 million Indigenous people around the world. In May 2016, the Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, announced that “Canada is now a full supporter of the *Declaration*, without qualification.” Minister Bennett affirmed Canada’s commitment to adopt and implement the *UN Declaration*.

On February 22, 2017, the Government of Canada announced the creation of a Working Group of Ministers that will examine relevant federal laws, policies and operational practices to help ensure the Crown is meeting its constitutional obligations with respect to Aboriginal and treaty rights; adhering to international human rights standards, including the *UN Declaration*; and supporting the implementation of the TRC’s Calls to Action.<sup>3</sup>

This Working Group will work with Indigenous leaders, youth and experts on various legal and policy issues.

## 2. Does the *UN Declaration* give Indigenous Peoples new rights?

The *UN Declaration* does not create new rights for Indigenous Peoples. It affirms Indigenous Peoples’ inherent, or pre-existing, collective human rights, as well as the individual human rights of Indigenous women, men and children. It applies existing human rights standards to the specific historical, cultural and social circumstances of Indigenous Peoples. While it does not automatically change Canadian laws, courts are free to rely on declarations and are using them in interpreting human rights – as are Indigenous and non-Indigenous governments and human rights bodies. One recent example is the

Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling on child welfare.<sup>4</sup> The *UN Declaration* is an authoritative instrument to clarify, interpret and expand the meaning and scope of domestic laws.

## 3. What is the benefit of a legislative framework?

A legislative framework for implementing the *UN Declaration* would affirm its central significance in the process of reconciliation, as called for by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC).

Bill C-262 is a Private Member’s bill that sets out a comprehensive legislative framework and seeks to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the *UN Declaration*<sup>5</sup>. The draft bill sets out the key principles that must guide implementation of the *UN Declaration*. It directs the Government of Canada to work with Indigenous Peoples to develop a national action plan to implement the *UN Declaration* over a 20-year period, and requires annual reporting to Parliament on progress made toward implementation.

Another Private Member’s bill before the House, Bill C-332, is also focused on the *UN Declaration*, but it does not include such consultation, planning or timeline.<sup>6</sup> It is not clear that the Working Group of Ministers will

<sup>3</sup> See “Prime Minister announces Working Group of Ministers on the Review of Laws and Policies Related to Indigenous Peoples” at <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2017/02/22/prime-minister-announces-working-group-ministers-review-laws-and-policies-related>

<sup>4</sup> *First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada v. Canada* (Attorney General), 2016 CHRT 2 [Canadian Human Rights Tribunal]

<sup>5</sup> To view the text of Bill C-262 visit <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&DocId=8210051&Col=1>

<sup>6</sup> To view the text of Bill C-332 visit <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&DocId=8705285&Col=1>



Heart Garden planted by students of Ermineskin Junior Senior High School on May 14, 2015. Photo by Josephine Small

create a legislative framework for implementation of the *UN Declaration*. Any legislation the Government of Canada may introduce should meet the standards set in Bill C-262. Since bringing Canadian laws and policies into conformity with the *UN Declaration* will require many years of work, the 20-year commitment that would be established by Bill C-262 is important for ensuring that a legislative framework is in place beyond the term of the current government.

#### 4. How will the *UN Declaration* help mend the relationship between Indigenous Peoples and Settlers?

The TRC calls the *UN Declaration* a framework for reconciliation and is “convinced that the *UN Declaration* provides the necessary principles, norms, and standards for reconciliation to flourish in twenty-first century Canada.” Of the TRC’s 94 Calls to Action, no less than 16 lift up the *UN Declaration*, summoning governments, churches, businesses, law societies, and many more institutions to learn, adopt, comply with and/or implement its minimum standards. In other words, if we desire the health, dignity, and well-being of both Indigenous people and settlers, implementing the *UN Declaration* is a critical way forward.

The *UN Declaration* can be considered a blueprint for justice, reconciliation, healing and peace. Throughout history, Indigenous Peoples’ human rights have repeatedly been denied and violated – the direct cause of the broken relationship. To create a better future, Indigenous Peoples’ human rights must be respected, promoted, and protected. The *UN Declaration* is an essential tool for governments, institutions and leaders to work in cooperation with Indigenous Peoples to change the existing paradigm, reject colonialism, and ensure Indigenous Peoples’ rights are honoured without discrimination.

#### 5. A key right lifted up in the *UN Declaration* is free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). What does it mean?

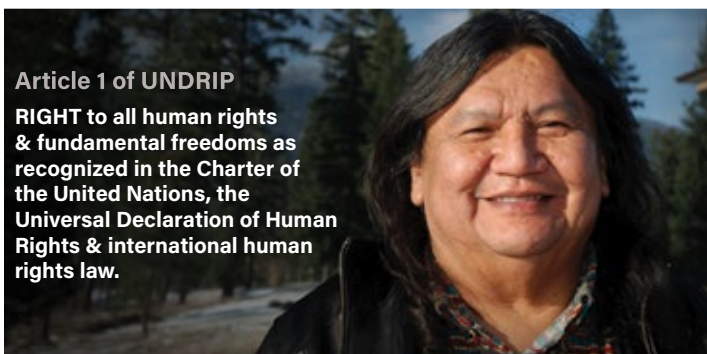
One issue in the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* that often receives attention is free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). FPIC flows from Indigenous Peoples’ inherent right to self-determination. It affirms Indigenous Peoples’ right to say “yes” or “no” to initiatives, including resource projects that impact their lives and futures. FPIC requires that Indigenous Peoples have access to all relevant information and sufficient time to make decisions based on their own forms of decision-making

while free from coercion. The Supreme Court of Canada in *Haida Nation v British Columbia (Minister of Forests)*, ruled that the “full consent” of Indigenous Peoples is required on “very serious issues.”<sup>7</sup>

Articles 10, 19, 27, 28, 29.2, 30, 32.2 refer directly or indirectly to FPIC. In the *UN Declaration*, the term “veto” is not used. The facts, law and the rights of all concerned must be duly considered in all cases. When, after all due process, Indigenous Peoples say no to a development project, the project proponent has the option of seeking a judicial review, as would happen in any other type of similar situation. Projects may be stopped, changed, revised, or rerouted – the options depend on the facts and the law in each case.

If a resource development project has support from some Indigenous communities and not others, companies must not exploit divisions by, for example, offering inducements to some communities. In essence, if different Indigenous communities have different positions, for example, on a pipeline, the route may need to be changed, or the project otherwise modified to address this. 25 yesses do not mean that 5 nos are not valid.

<sup>7</sup> [2004] 3 S.C.R. 511 is the leading decision of the Supreme Court of Canada on the Crown’s duty to consult Aboriginal groups prior to exploiting lands to which they may have claims.



Art Manuel: Secwepemc Nation. Spokesperson, Defenders of the Land & Indigenous Network for Economies & Trade. Former Chief, Neskonlith Band. Photo taken by Nicole Schabus.



Helen Knott: Dane Zaa/Cree Poet & Indigenous Rights Activist. Co-creator, Red Rising Collective.

## 6. What does it mean for churches to affirm the rights of Indigenous Peoples to their spiritual traditions?

Article 12 in the *UN Declaration* affirms that *Indigenous Peoples have the right to manifest, practise, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.*

Many Christians can affirm respect for other faith traditions based on a gracious living out of Jesus' teaching to *Do to others as you would have them do to you.* (Luke 6:31) Many Christians stand in wonder at how the God of all nations has created diverse and wonderful peoples. Respect for each other's spiritual traditions opens up the possibility of rich dialogue on the meaning of faith and on how spirituality provides strength to

face life's many challenges, including healing, reconciliation, justice and peace. Respecting rights can include sharing faith, but not imposing one's faith.

In the not so distant past, the Government of Canada criminalized spiritual ceremonies such as the Sundance and Potlatch, and used Indian Residential Schools to aggressively indoctrinate cultural and spiritual beliefs in order to assimilate Indigenous children. The Rt. Hon. Beverley McLachlin, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada characterized the Residential Schools System as cultural genocide. Violating the rights of Indigenous Peoples to their spiritual traditions is part of the colonial legacy. While some denominations have repented for this past behaviour, not all have.

The right to practice spiritual traditions is an inherent right and is essential to the process of reconciliation. This fundamental

right is essential for the dignity and survival of Indigenous Peoples of the world.

## 7. Will implementing the UN Declaration be difficult?

Yes. The legacy of colonialism is deep and painful. Reconciliation is hard work: emotionally, mentally, physically, socially and spiritually. Non-Indigenous Canadians are encouraged to learn the common history shared with Indigenous Peoples and spend time building relationships with Indigenous Peoples. As people of faith, we will have our assumptions challenged and be forced to face our fears. It takes courage to offer your voice and your action to the work of reconciliation, justice and peace-making. At the same time, the gifts of forgiveness, healing, and hope are rooted in God's promise to be with us and to guide us. The work of implementing the *UN Declaration* will also be joyful and uplifting – knowing that the rights of all are being respected.



Roll with the Declaration event in Ottawa in 2011.

# Meet with your Member of Parliament in support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Meeting with your MP is an important part of our democracy. It is an opportunity to share your views with your elected representatives. The aim of this meeting is to communicate the following key points:

- Implementing the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* is an essential part of reconciliation. Many Canadian churches have already taken this step in accordance with TRC Call to Action 48, and as part of our commitment, we are encouraging the government to do so now.
- Implementing the *UN Declaration* must be done in a legislative framework.

- The Government of Canada's decision to establish a Working Group of Ministers to Review Laws and Policies Related to Indigenous Peoples in consultation with Indigenous organizations is welcome.<sup>8</sup>
- State that Private Member's Bill C-262 is a minimum standard to begin to make Canadian legislation consistent with the principles of the *UN Declaration*.

All MPs can and should be open to dialogue regarding the *UN Declaration*. If your MP plans to support legislative implementation of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, affirm your MP's decision. If your MP has concerns about supporting Bill C-262, this is an opportunity to discuss those concerns and let your MP know there are people in his or her constituency who support Bill C-262.

Please note that another Private Member's bill concerning the *UN Declaration*, Bill C-332, has less detail and fewer accountability mechanisms than Bill C-262. Your MP may ask you about it, and you will want to be able to explain that Bill C-262 will come up for a vote in the House of Commons before Bill C-332 has its second reading.

The order in which Private Members' bills are considered is determined by a lottery that occurs shortly after an election. As of March 8, 2017, there are 270 MPs whose names are on the list awaiting their turn for having a bill voted on in the House of Commons. Since the sponsor of Bill C-262, MP Romeo Saganash, is number 87 on the list his bill will come up for a vote sometime between January and June 2018, according to the Private Members' Business Office. Since MP Robert-Falcon Ouellette, the sponsor of Bill C-332, is number 226 on the priority list, Bill C-332 may not come up for a vote until late in 2019.

Our hope is that MPs will vote in favour of a legislative framework for implementing the *UN Declaration* in law at the earliest opportunity. Since bringing Canadian laws and policies into conformity with the *UN Declaration* will require many years of work, the 20-year commitment that would be established by Bill C-262 is important for ensuring that a legislative framework is in place beyond the term of the current government.

<sup>8</sup> See Prime Minister announces Working Group of Ministers on the Review of Laws and Policies Related to Indigenous Peoples at <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2017/02/22/prime-minister-announces-working-group-ministers-review-laws-and-policies-related>



KAIROS Toronto meets with MPP Peter Tabuns on June 7, 2016.

# Plan a Meeting with your Member of Parliament

## Who is my MP?

Your MP is listed on the Parliament of Canada's website [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca)

## How do I contact my MP?

Once you identify your MP, phone the local constituency office and request a meeting regarding the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, the Government of Canada's decision to review laws and policies and Private Member's Bill C-262. Your MP will be in her or his constituency:

- Week of April 17, 2017
- Week of April 24, 2017
- Week of May 22, 2017

The House of Commons will recess for the summer in mid to late June and resume sitting in September. (As this resource was being written, specific dates had not yet been announced).

## Plan Ahead

Pull together a small group (no more than 3 or 4 people) to discuss the meeting. Read the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* together. Read Bill

C-262<sup>9</sup> and Bill C-332<sup>10</sup>. Discuss anything that is important to you, or that you have questions about. It is important that you address these together before your meeting. Write down the questions and discussion points you wish to raise with your MP. Make sure everyone who will be at the meeting is comfortable with the points you wish to discuss with your MP. Assign speakers to address each point. This ensures everyone participates and no one on your team is surprised by what is being said. Also assign a note taker to record what the MP says and prepare a report.

Prepare a half page document that summarizes your position and take it with you to the meeting to give to your MP. This summary should include:

- The names of the people on the delegation.
- The name of the congregation or parish you attend.
- Why do you feel strongly about this issue?
- Why is the faith community involved in this matter?

## Suggested questions for your MP

- We support the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and its implementation. Do you?
- It is my understanding that Private Member's Bill C-262 provides a legislative framework and timeline

to implement the *UN Declaration*. Will you support Bill C-262 when it comes up for second reading?

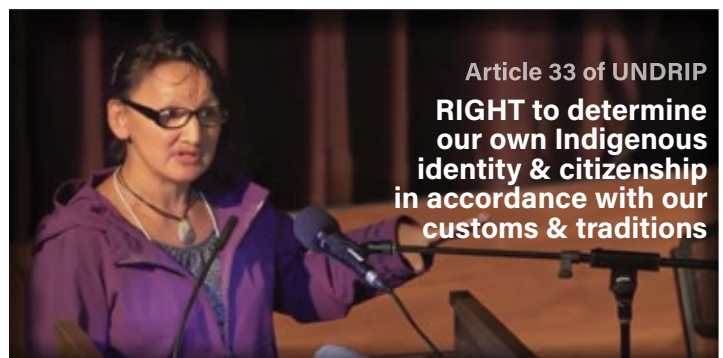
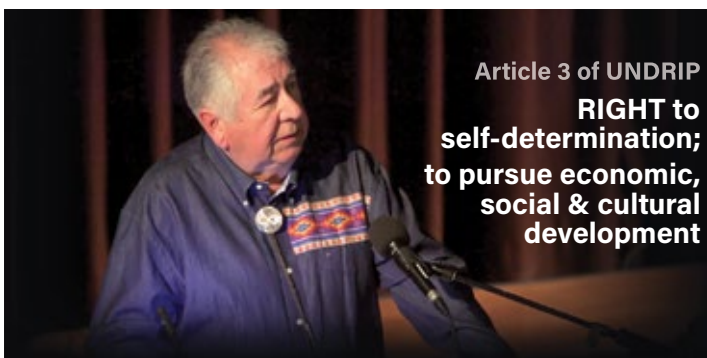
- Will you talk to other MPs about supporting Bill C-262?
- Can you offer us an update on the work of the Working Group of Ministers on the Review of Laws and Policies?

## Suggested Speaking Notes

- Acknowledge the territory you are from, and you are meeting on (if different).
- Explain your commitment to reconciliation.
- Key elements of Bill C-262:
  - Is a public affirmation that the *UN Declaration* has application in Canadian law.
  - Outlines a review process of federal legislation to ensure that legislation meets minimum standards set out in the *UN Declaration*.
  - Requires that the Government of Canada meet with Indigenous Peoples to develop an action plan to implement the *UN Declaration*.
  - Requires annual reporting to Parliament on progress being made in implementing the *UN Declaration*. The twenty year timeline for reporting acknowledges the long-term nature of this commitment and work.

<sup>9</sup> To view the text of Bill C-262 visit <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&DocId=8210051&Col=1>

<sup>10</sup> To view the text of Bill C-332 visit <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&DocId=8705285&Col=1>



LEFT: Tony Belcourt: Métis Rights Leader & Activist. Founding President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. | RIGHT: Looee Okalik: Health and Social Development Project Coordinator, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.



- If your MP raises questions about the *UN Declaration's* consistency with law, explain that your understanding of Bill C-262 is that it establishes a legislative point of entry for these issues to be resolved. The Bill sets out a twenty year reporting timeline that acknowledges the long-term nature of reconciliation. The Bill sets out implementation of the *UN Declaration* as its objective. It does not provide a prescriptive plan for achieving implementation, but rather sets up the necessary circumstances for Parliamentarians to develop a plan for implementation.
- Consult the *Questions and Answers on the UN Declaration* on page 4-6 for further information.
- If your MP raises questions about the Ministerial Working Group explain that while it is a welcome initiative it still does not establish legislative framework for making changes to Canadian laws and policies.

### Tips for the Team

- Arrive at least 15 minutes before your appointment.
- Be polite. Your MP is a person with hopes, fears, gifts and challenges just like you. Your MP may or may not agree with you, but becoming annoyed or confrontational will not achieve a positive outcome of the meeting. Be a strong but composed advocate.
- Be prepared for questions you haven't anticipated. Decide as a group ahead of time who is best suited to field unexpected questions.
- Do not take up the entire meeting time. After presenting your statement, and addressing your questions, allow your MP time to ask questions and express his or her views.
- If your MP doesn't know the issue well, he or she may ask "What do you want me to do?" Or "What role can I play?" Be prepared to suggest that he or she support Bill C-262 when it comes to a second reading.

Ask him or her to raise questions about the Bill at meetings with his or her caucus.

- Do not run longer than the time allowed for the meeting.
- Thank your MP for taking the time to meet with you. Make sure you give your MP a copy of the half page statement about who you are and what you have asked for.

### Next Steps

Before you meet with your MP, decide if you wish to ask him or her for a photo with the meeting team. This is at the discretion of your group members, and the MP. **Send high resolution photos and a report on the MP's responses to KAIROS at the following address [UNdeclaration@kairoscanada.org](mailto:UNdeclaration@kairoscanada.org).**

Send your MP a follow up email or letter:

1. Reminding them who you are and when you met.
2. Thanking them again for meeting with you.
3. Summarizing comments and or verbal commitments your MP made.



KAIROS volunteers near Kamloops BC during one stop on the Rolling Justice Bus tour in support of communities affected by mining."

# Make a Banner in Support of Indigenous Rights

## Support actions to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has declared the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* the framework for reconciliation. Many Canadian churches and religious organizations have adopted the *UN Declaration*. Links to these statements are online at <http://bit.ly/TRC-48>.

The Government of Canada has committed to implementing the *UN Declaration* and has established a Working Group of Ministers to Review Laws and Policies Related to Indigenous Peoples.<sup>11</sup> This resource is part of a campaign to draw attention to the need for the Government of Canada to implement the *UN Declaration* through a legislative framework which is needed to ensure that the work of harmonizing laws and policies continues beyond the term of the current government.

To date, two Private Members' bills have been introduced in Parliament. Bill C-262 was introduced by Mr. Romeo Saganash, MP for Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou. If passed by Parliament, this bill would establish a legislative framework for implementation of the *UN Declaration*.<sup>12</sup> Bill C-332 was introduced by Mr. Robert-Falcon Ouellette, MP for

Winnipeg Centre.<sup>13</sup> Due to the lottery system under which Private Members' bills are selected for consideration in the House of Commons, Bill C-262 will come up for a vote much sooner than Bill C-332.

## NOW IT'S TIME TO ACT!

### How can you participate?

**Pray.** Thank God for the diversity of creation and all of God's peoples. Confess our brokenness and frailty as we strive to be ambassadors of reconciliation (Corinthians 5:17-20). Ask for strength in the journey to reconciliation.

**Advocate.** Meet with your MP. Ask her or him to support the legislative implementation of the *UN Declaration*, using Bill C-262 as a minimum standard. Resources for meeting with your MP are included in this resource.

**Educate.** Your church can make a banner acknowledging the traditional territory the church is on, and supporting implementation of the *UN Declaration*. Hang it outside your church. Information on traditional Indigenous territories is online here: <http://native-land.ca/>

### Why Make a Banner?

To demonstrate your church or community's support for the implementation of the *UN Declaration* on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

To show support for the rights of the Indigenous Peoples on whose traditional territory you live.

To show the Government of Canada that many Canadians deeply care about Indigenous rights and want to see the *UN Declaration* implemented.



Oakville-Mississauga KAIROS creating a banner with Elder Valerie King

### Designing your banner

- Make a 2 ft/.61 metres x 4 ft/1.2 metres banner using vinyl or other water proof material.
- Decide on a design that will signal your church or community's support.
- Use pictures, words or symbols... whatever shows your support for implementing the *UN Declaration* in legislation.
- Include your community or church's name and the name of the traditional Indigenous territory on the banner.
- Invite people of all ages to participate.

### When the banner is completed

- Plan a worship service or other community event to draw attention to Bill C-262 and your community's support for implementation of the *UN Declaration*.

<sup>11</sup> See "Prime Minister announces Working Group of Ministers on the Review of Laws and Policies Related to Indigenous Peoples" at <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2017/02/22/prime-minister-announces-working-group-ministers-review-laws-and-policies-related>

<sup>12</sup> To view the text of Bill C-262 visit <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&DocId=8210051&Col=1>

<sup>13</sup> To view the text of Bill C-332 visit <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&DocId=8705285&Col=1>

- Take a high resolution photo and send it to KAIROS at the following e-mail address [UNdeclaration@kairoscanada.org](mailto:UNdeclaration@kairoscanada.org). KAIROS is creating a digital mosaic with these photos that will be a public affirmation of support for the *UN Declaration*.

### Suggested Agenda for a 1 hour banner making event

- Introduce yourself
- Open with prayer
- Bible Reading
- Introductions

Explain the purpose of the banner, and the role it will play in drawing attention to the *UN Declaration* in your church

and community and to encourage people to meet with their MPs regarding the Government of Canada's intent to implement the *UN Declaration* by making changes to make laws and policies affecting Indigenous Peoples.

Explain that this is a campaign being spearheaded by KAIROS and several denominations that are not members of KAIROS including Mennonite Church Canada (Indigenous Relations) and Canadian Baptist Congregations.

Explain that this action is in response to Call to Action 48, iii: Peoples of faith engaging in public dialogue and actions to support the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

Have copies of the *UN Declaration* available for people to take home. Printed copies of the *UN Declaration* may be ordered at <http://bit.ly/booklet-print>.

If you are planning to meet with your MP, invite others to consider coming with you, or to write letters in support of Bill C-262 which you can hand deliver in your meeting.

- Banner making time
- Thanks for coming
- Closing prayer

## Resources

### Print Resources

*UN Declaration* booklet

**Order:** <http://bit.ly/booklet-print>

**Download:** <http://bit.ly/bookletPDF>

*Wrongs to Rights: How Churches can Engage the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* Published by Mennonite Church Canada. Contains the perspectives of over 40 authors from diverse backgrounds on the meaning of the *UN Declaration* for the churches.

**Order:** <http://bit.ly/CommonWord>

*Churches' Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #48* <http://bit.ly/TRC-48>

*Strength for Climbing: Steps on the Journey of Reconciliation*

Designed to help non-Indigenous communities on the path to reconciliation.

**Order:** <http://bit.ly/Climbing-print>

**Download:** <http://bit.ly/Climbing-pdf>

Resources on the *UN Declaration* available from the Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers) <http://bit.ly/QuakerService>

Updated Fact Sheet on the *UN Declaration*

**Download:** <http://bit.ly/QuakerServiceFPIC>

Series of 46 KAIROS memes representing each article in the *UN Declaration* for use on social media

**Download:** <http://bit.ly/UNDRIP-memes>

### Videos Resources

Press Conference: *Churches respond to TRC deadline on Call to Action #48* - March 30, 2016

<http://bit.ly/PressConferenceVideo>

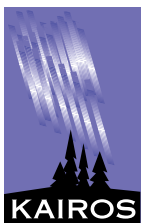
KAIROS video playlist on *Free, Prior and Informed Consent* <http://bit.ly/FPIC-videos>

Closing ceremony: Release of the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission—June 1, 2016

<http://bit.ly/QuakerTRCvideo>

A "plain language" version of the *UN Declaration*

<https://vimeo.com/51598291>



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