



Public statement

June 9, 2021

## **Canada on verge of adopting long-overdue legislation to implement the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples***

With only one step remaining in the Parliamentary process, our Nations and organizations are encouraging all Senators to ensure that long overdue federal legislation to implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* is now adopted into law.

Bill C-15 will establish an ongoing legal requirement for the federal government to work collaboratively with Indigenous peoples to implement the *UN Declaration*.

This includes ensuring that Canada's laws are consistent with the minimum standards affirmed in the 2007 *Declaration*. Bill C-15 also requires cooperative development of a National Action Plan to implement the *Declaration* through law, policy and programs and for the government to report publicly on the progress made.

These measures are essential to meeting Canada's international human rights obligations and to fulfilling the federal government's many public commitments to fully implement the *UN Declaration*.

On Monday, the Senate completed a clause by clause reading of Bill C-15. The Bill now needs to be brought to a final vote in the Senate so that it can receive Royal Assent.

The Assembly of First Nations, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Métis National Council, among many others, have called for the Bill to be brought to a vote without further amendment to avoid delays that would almost certainly prevent its passage into law. The Coalition supports this position.

The *UN Declaration* was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly more than 13 years ago, on September 13, 2007, as the minimum global standards for the "survival, dignity and well-being" of Indigenous peoples.

With the unprecedented public attention to harms inflicted on Indigenous peoples by racism, colonialism and other human rights violations, the Coalition for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples is urging all Senators to take this opportunity to demonstrate that Canada is ready to embrace a better way forward.

***The Coalition for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples*** ([www.declarationcoaliton.ca](http://www.declarationcoaliton.ca))

This statement was endorsed by the following organizations and individuals:

Amnesty International Canada (English Speaking)	Laurie Buffalo, Councilwoman, Samson Cree Nation
Amnistie internationale Canada francophone	Ellen Gabriel, Kanien'kehá:ka Activist
BC Assembly of First Nations	Cheryl Knockwood, Chair, Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission
BC Treaty Commission	Chief Wilton Littlechild, former TRC Commissioner
Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)	Dr. Sheryl Lightfoot, Canada Research Chair of Global Indigenous Rights and Politics, University of British Columbia
First Nations Summit	Brenda Gunn, Professor, Robson Hall Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government	Bobbi Herrera, Centennial Ambassador (Alberta)
KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives	Dr. Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine, Présidente, Association Tinhinan Canada and member Tinhinane Sahel
Métis Nation	
Union of BC Indian Chiefs	

