ᐧᐃᓂᐯᑯᐃᐅᔥᒡ ᓅᐦᒋᑦᐅᐃᐅᔥᒡ ᐁ ᓇᑕᒫᑐᐧᑖᐤ (ᐃᐅᔥ ᐊᔾᑦ)
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

ᐃᐅᔥ ᑎᐯᔨᐦᒋᑎᓯ
Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

Whapmagoostui
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Chisasibi
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Wemindji
ᐃᒥᓐᑊ

Eastmain
ᐃᔾᒣᐣ

Waskaganish
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Nemaska
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Waswanipi
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Ouje-Bougoumou
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Mistissini
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Washaw Sibi
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MoCreebec
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PRESS RELEASE

Cree Nation Government Strongly Supports Canada's Tabling of Legislation to Implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

Nemaska, Eeyou Istchee (December 4, 2020) – The Cree Nation Government welcomes the tabling of Bill C-15, a federal bill which provides for the implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. The *Declaration* is an important source for the interpretation of Canadian law.

Bill C-15 builds upon the initial landmark Bill C-262, which was introduced by then M.P. Romeo Saganash, a member of the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi within our territory.

Bill C-15 provides an essential framework for reconciliation, healing and peace, as well as harmonious and cooperative relations based on the principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, non-discrimination and good faith.

The Grand Council of the Crees/Cree Nation Government has been actively involved at the international level in drafting and promoting the passage of the *UN Declaration* for nearly 40 years.

"We are extremely pleased to see this legislation tabled before Parliament as a government bill, and we are hopeful that it will be adopted as soon as possible. This Bill is the culmination of our efforts to secure passage of the *UN Declaration* at the international level as well as implementation by Canada. We are particularly grateful to former Grand Chief Dr. Ted Moses and Mr. Romeo Saganash who worked diligently for many years to see the fruition of this very significant initiative. We applaud Minister David Lametti for his excellent work in bringing this legislation forward in a timely way and realizing a key commitment on the part of the Prime Minister.", stated Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum.

"This legislation has been a long time coming and builds upon our decades of work in the international arena to secure protection of the rights of Indigenous peoples. It also reflects the importance of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This legislation will contribute to ensuring that historic injustices, colonialism, and current instances of systemic discrimination can be addressed, while also promoting the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples to self-determination and the right of self-government. We urge all Parliamentarians to ensure passage of Bill C-15 as soon as possible. Our rights are human rights that require full respect throughout Canada.", added Executive Director Bill Namagoose.

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