



Whapmagoostui  
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Chisasibi  
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Wemindji  
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Eastmain  
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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

### Indigenous Nations, organizations and prominent individuals support federal implementation of UN Indigenous rights Declaration

**Nemaska, Eeyou Istchee (March 10, 2021)** – In an open letter published this week in *The Hill Times*, 37 Indigenous Nations and governments and other organizations, and 125 human rights advocates, are calling for the timely passage of Bill C-15, the proposed federal legislation to implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

The open letter coincides with the beginning of Parliamentary hearings on the Bill, which was tabled by the Liberal government in early December. Romeo Saganash, whose private Member’s bill, Bill C-262, provided the model for C-15, is among the expert witnesses testifying on March 11.

The letter calls Bill C-15 “an historic opportunity to advance reconciliation.” Noting that stalling preventing Bill C-262 becoming law, the letter states: “Concrete measures to implement the *UN Declaration* in Canadian law and policy are necessary and overdue. Passage of Bill C-15 should be a top priority for all Members of Parliament and Senators.”

Signatories include the Assembly of First Nations, the Inuit Circumpolar Council, the Métis National Council, a former Attorney General of Canada, a former Minister of Foreign Affairs, a former Premier of the Northwest Territories, the chair of a UN human rights committee, notable philanthropists, and grassroots leaders and activists, among others.

The letter and the full list of signatories to date can be found at: <https://www.cngov.ca/news-issues/current-issues/undrip-and-bill-c-15/>

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