



*Des communautés
plus fortes au Canada*

*Strengthening
Canada's Communities*

1 May 2015

Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister,


We are writing on behalf of the Canadian CED Network to urge the Government of Canada and all parties in the House of Commons to adopt a resolution approving the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples concerning the doctrine of «discovery» and «terra nullius» and negotiate on an equal basis with aboriginal peoples, nation to nation, including land rights and that the federal government educate the Canadian population on these issues.

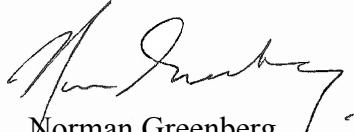
The Canadian CED Network is a national association of community organizations, co-operatives, credit unions, foundations, municipalities and practitioners working to enhance the social, economic and environmental conditions of Canada's communities through Community Economic Development. Community Economic Development is citizen-led action to enhance the social and economic conditions of communities on an integrated and inclusive basis. This action reduces poverty, unemployment and social disadvantage by building assets and creating opportunities. The Canadian CED Network has several hundred member organizations in every province and territory inclusive of urban, rural, northern and Aboriginal community settings.

The Canadian CED Network is concerned that the lasting effects of Canada's colonial attitude towards Aboriginal peoples are not sufficiently recognized by governments and the population in general. There is no denying that previous actions of governments and institutions sought to assimilate Aboriginal peoples and refused recognition of their rights. The Canadian government's apology for the Indian Residential Schools system and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that followed have been valuable steps towards greater recognition of these historical injustices, but much more progress is needed on the fundamental issues of unsettled claims, land and other rights of Aboriginal peoples.

In order to respect our commitments as a signatory to the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, we urge the Government of Canada and all federal parties to accelerate negotiations with Aboriginal Peoples on an equal, nation to nation basis, towards just, fair and equitable settlements of outstanding claims.

Sincerely,


Diana Jedig
President


Norman Greenberg
Policy Council Chair

CC: Hon. Bernard Valcourt
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development