



Rt. Hon Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

October 28, 2020

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

We are writing to support your government's commitment in the recent Speech from the Throne to introduce legislation to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and we urge you to do so as soon as possible.

As you know, the United Nations adopted UNDRIP in 2007 and, in 2016, Canada officially adopted the declaration and promised to implement it fully. However, the implementation has lagged, despite many calls from Indigenous, civil society, and political organizations to fully commit to it. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendation #43 calls upon federal, provincial, and territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement UNDRIP as the framework for reconciliation. The report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls reaffirms this recommendation in the first of its 10 calls to action. The Assembly of First Nations expressed its deep commitment to the full and effective implementation of UNDRIP in its report, *Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, in 2017. KAIROS, Amnesty International, and countless other organizations have called for the same thing. With this letter, the Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet) officially adds itself to these calls.

CCEDNet is a national association of community organizations, co-operatives, credit unions, foundations, municipalities, and citizens working to enhance the social, economic, and environmental conditions of Canada's communities. We have members in all regions of Canada, including urban, rural, northern, and Indigenous community settings.

CCEDNet's members are innovation leaders for building inclusive economies. From the first community loan fund in Canada, to the first community development corporation, the dynamic co-operative and social enterprise sectors and many more, CCEDNet members are at the forefront of creative solutions to equitable growth. The economic opportunities created by our members extend the benefits of growth and prosperity to

groups and regions that face barriers or who are too often excluded. As such, our values and the principles of community economic development go hand-in-hand with righting our relationship with Indigenous Peoples. We believe strongly not only in the implementation of UNDRIP but also in the acceleration of nation-to-nation dialogue with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples, and reconciliation with them that acknowledges the legacy of historic and present wrongs to Indigenous people of this land.

In CCEDNet's view, robust UNDRIP legislation would include provisions for applying the new law as a lens through which to review and rectify all previous legislation that is inconsistent with UNDRIP. It would uphold and reinforce the nation-to-nation relationship between Canada and Indigenous Nations. Furthermore, not only would it mandate annual progress reporting, but it would require these reports to be co-developed with the Nations they seek to serve.

According to the United Nations, UNDRIP is the most comprehensive international instrument on the rights of Indigenous peoples. It establishes a universal framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity, and well-being of the Indigenous peoples of the world and it elaborates on existing human rights standards and fundamental freedoms as they apply to the specific situation of Indigenous peoples.

We face many urgent issues. This one is foundational to all the rest. We implore you to legislate the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Victor Beausoleil  
President, CCEDNet



Marianne Jurzyniec  
Chair, CCEDNet Policy Council

cc: Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations  
Hon. Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services



# Canadian CED Network



The Canadian Community Economic Development Network represents a national membership of people and organizations committed to strengthening communities by creating economic opportunities that enhance social and environmental conditions for all.

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