



National Indigenous Peoples Day, 21 June 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A3

Email: pm@pm.gc.ca; justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Re: Bill C-15, an Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Dear Prime Minister:

The Canadian Council of Churches has long advocated for the use of the United Nations Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the foundation for improved relations with Indigenous Peoples and as a framework for reconciliation.

Accordingly, on this National Indigenous Peoples Day we take note of the passage of Bill C-15, *An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* sponsored by the Minister of Justice through the House of Commons and the Senate, now awaiting royal assent.

We look forward to the development of an action plan to implement the Declaration in Canada and to the publication of the results achieved through its implementation in keeping with the spirit of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Canada.

The members of The Canadian Council of Churches long to live in a society grounded in right relationships and equity and we will continue to seek and live into reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. We will do so when led by, and accompanied by, Indigenous Peoples, so as to ensure authentic processes in developing renewed relationships.

Please be assured of our continued prayers for you, Prime Minister, for the Government of Canada, and for a more just and caring Canada.

Sincerely,



Pastor Peter Noteboom
General Secretary

cc: The Honourable Erin O'Toole, MP, Leader of the Official Opposition
Jagmeet Singh, MP, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada
Yves-François Blanchet, MP, Leader of the Bloc Québécois
Annamie Paul, Leader of the Green Party of Canada

The Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

The Canadian Council of Churches responds to Christ's call for unity and peace, seeks Christ's truth with affection for diversity, and acts in love through prayer, dialogue and witness to the gospel.

The Council is a broad and inclusive ecumenical body, now representing 26-member churches including Anglican; Eastern and Roman Catholic; Evangelical; Free Church; Eastern and Oriental Orthodox; and Historic Protestant traditions. Together these member churches comprise 85% of the Christians in Canada.

The Canadian Council of Churches was founded in 1944.