

Friends,

Today has been a rollercoaster; due to some very quick thinking on the part of Senator Sinclair and the persistence and patience of Senator Dyck (chair of APPA committee) and the independent senators, the Aboriginal committee was able to complete the clause by clause consideration of C-262. **The bill will be referred back to the Senate for third reading now.**

Committee began with **a motion by Senator Sinclair to reverse the order of the agenda, putting C-262 first.** Opponents to the bill were not prepared and so the committee was able to work on C-262. Unfortunately, the tone of the meeting became very antagonistic and confrontational.

The conservative senators tabled many amendments, which is well within their right; however, they used maximum time at every amendment to present their arguments, and then complain that they weren't given any time to speak when their 5 minutes ran out. They also repeatedly tried to adjourn the meeting, remove officials from the room, move on to other business, and extend speaking time to 20 minutes per person. I have never witnessed anything like it. **Now, third reading, we are told, will be more difficult still. Amendments are still possible, and there are many possible filibustering techniques that could be used.**

We appreciate so very much the letters that have been sent to the Senators and Andrew Scheer. We know that many of you have been making phone calls and advocating loudly in favour of human rights and C-262. **We could not have gotten to this stage of the legislative process without you. Thank you.**

It is still important for Andrew Scheer to understand that he has lost control of his national caucus: the conservative senators are simply not abiding by the unanimous motion from the House to the Senate, calling on senators to pass C-262 as quickly as possible. **Tomorrow the Conservative caucus meets: some Senators do not oppose the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples and are not enjoying the negative attention, some MPs have their own bills stalled in the Senate due to these filibustering shenanigans and are also unhappy.**

Can we ask you to do two things tonight?

1. **Email the Conservative national caucus members and express concern with what the Senate is doing, and speak in favour of Indigenous Rights (don't have their email address? Don't know what to write? [Click here!](#))**
2. **Call Andrew Scheer's office with the same message (Don't know what to say? [Click here!](#))**

There is still time to influence partisan opinion regarding this non-partisan bill in favour of human rights before the Senate rises for the summer. Bill C-262: An Act to Ensure the Laws of Canada are in Harmony with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples can still become law during this parliament. We will never have a better opportunity to see these rights adopted into Canadian law.

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- Romeo Saganash, MP