



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

01 April 2021

THE CONFEDERACY OF TREATY NO. 6 FIRST NATIONS CHIEFS REJECT FLAWED BILL C-15

(amiskwacîwâskahikan) The Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations in unity with Treaty 7 and 8 First Nations fully reject the flawed Bill C-15, which was developed without the free, prior and informed consent of the Treaty Nations. The Treaty 6, 7 and 8 Chiefs met and passed a resolution in assembly at an AoTC on March 17th, 2021. The Confederacy reminds the Federal Minister of Indigenous Services that the Assembly of First Nations is not, nor has ever been, a treaty-making body. All Treaties are Nation to Nation, between the Chiefs of individual Nations and the Crown. Thus, the AFN has no recognizable legislative authority to participate in the drafting of Bill C-15, known as CANDRIP (“*An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*”)

The Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 Chiefs affirm that their authority derives from the Creator and the citizens of their respective Nations/Tribes, and in the exercise of their Inherent authority and Treaty Rights are beneficiaries of all aspects of international law. The Assembly of First Nations is not party to this authority.

Additionally, contrary to its stated aims, the current Canadian Government’s interpretation of the *United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) as described in Bill C-15 subverts the original intent of the Declaration by removing sovereign rights enjoyed by Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 Nations. All 46 Articles of the UN declaration will be interpreted and implemented through the colonial Canadian constitutional framework, including through the AFN, instead of respecting international law regarding the rights of Indigenous Peoples. CANDRIP is flawed legislation, and the Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 Chiefs reject it.

Grand Chief Okimaw Vernon Watchmaker

For more information or media inquiries, contact:

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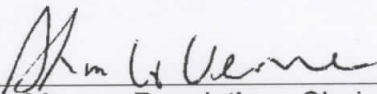
6. Canada working with the Assembly of First Nations and other organizations drafted Bill C-15 to enact the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples into Canadian Law;
7. Organizations are not rights holders;
8. There was no process to engage the Nations on any discussion on the contents of the Bill C-15;
9. Bill C-15 changes the definition of Indigenous Peoples who were present at the time of contact (which is the United Nations definition) to a "pan aboriginal" definition using Canada's *Constitution Act*, 1982;
10. Bill C-15 would ensure that Canada has territorial integrity over our territories despite our Peace and Friendship Treaties;
11. In 2012, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination asked Canada to provide the UN with document or documents to show that the state owned the territories and resources of Indigenous Peoples;
12. To this date, Canada has not provided those documents;
13. Bill C-15 would be evidence of Canada's ownership of our territories and resources;
14. Bill C-15 was read into Parliament on December 3, 2020, with second reading on February 17, 2021; and
15. There has been no process to engage the Nations leaving the Nations to ask for time before the Standing Committee to voice objections to the present Bill C-15.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ASSEMBLY OF TREATY CHIEFS:

1. Reject Bill C-15 in it's entirety;
2. Ask Canada be asked to withdraw Bill C-15;
3. Direct Canada start to engage in processes that respect our Treaties and our right to free, prior and informed consent;
4. Will appear at the Standing Committee to present their case against Bill C-15;
5. Prepare a draft submission to the Standing Committee, for the House of Commons Standing Committee and the Senate Standing Committee;

6. Instruct the appropriate department/s to forward Resolution #04/2021 and corresponding material to the appropriate departments within the Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7, Treaty No. 8 (Alberta) First Nations; and
7. Finally, that the research team report to the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs of Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7, Treaty No. 8 (Alberta) as to the status or progress in relation to this directive at the Summer or Fall Sitting of the AoTC.

Certified Correct:



Sharon Venne, Resolutions Chairperson