
Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 5, 6 & 7, 2017, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 97/2017

TITLE: Support for Bill C-262, "An Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People"

SUBJECT: Legislation on the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples

MOVED BY: Grand Chief Edward John, Proxy, Tl'azt'en First Nation, B.C.

SECONDED BY: Chief Charles Morven, *Nisga'a Village Government of Gitwinksihlkw*, B.C.

DECISION: Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) is a consensus international human rights instrument which elaborates and upholds standards for the survival, dignity, security and well-being of the Indigenous peoples of the world.
- B. Indigenous nations, First Nations and organizations have been involved in the development, promotion and implementation of the UN Declaration.
- C. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has embraced the UN Declaration as "the framework" for reconciliation, to redress Indigenous peoples' human rights violations throughout Canada's history.
- D. The Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission included the following calls to action with respect to the UN Declaration:
 - i. 43: We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.
 - ii. 44: We call upon the Government of Canada to develop a national action plan, strategies, and other concrete measures to achieve the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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- E. Member of Parliament Romeo Saganash's private members bill on implementation of the UN Declaration, Bill C-262, will begin debate at second reading in Parliament on December 5, 2017. Bill C-262 has been developed with significant engagement and involvement of First Nations.
- F. Key elements of Bill C-262 include: repudiation of colonialism and doctrines of superiority; affirmation that the standards set out in the UN Declaration have application in Canadian law; and review and reform of federal legislation to ensure consistency with the minimum standards set out in the UN Declaration. In addition, Bill C-262 requires that a national action plan for implementation be developed in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

- 1. Call upon all Canadian federal parliamentarians to support Bill C-262 which represents a principled human rights legislative framework to advance reconciliation.

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