

TEMPLATE

Subject line: [Insert Name of First Nation] Supports Bill C-15 as per the TRC's Calls To Action

Feel free to personalize the letter's content to increase its impact.

[Insert Name of First Nation] is strongly in favour of Bill C-15, *An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. We recognize Bill C-15 as a pivotal opportunity for Canada to act upon their responsibility to uphold human rights at the federal level. Furthermore, we urge the federal government to honour the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 2015 report, *Calls to Action*. The report includes a call to federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the UN Declaration. It also calls upon the Government of Canada to develop a national action plan, strategies, and other concrete measures to achieve the goals of the Declaration.

The UN Declaration is a critical human rights instrument built upon decades of work by Indigenous Peoples worldwide, including First Nations leadership from Canada. Furthermore, the Declaration has been affirmed by the TRC as an acceptable framework for reconciliation in Canada. To achieve items 43 and 44 of *Calls to Action* by passing Bill C-15 would be a meaningful step towards honouring the hundreds of thousands of Indigenous students, families, and communities harmed by the Indian Residential School System.

[Insert Name of First Nation] also recognizes that implementing the UN Declaration would benefit Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities alike. By embedding Free, Prior, and Informed Consent into resource management processes, governments and industry will be expected to build respectful relationships and seek productive agreements with First Nations. Free, Prior, and Informed Consent will prevent conflict and facilitate healthy economic growth. As a result, Bill C-15 will help us work together to improve communities, economies, and systems across the country.

The death of Bill C-15's predecessor, Bill C-262, was a resounding setback for reconciliation in this country. However, with Bill C-15, we now have a renewed opportunity to do right by Indigenous Peoples and set a global example for championing human rights.

[Insert Name of First Nation] seeks to move forward and see concrete, meaningful progress on reconciliation. By continuing down this path with the UN Declaration as a shared framework, we may eradicate the ongoing inequities and injustices endured by Indigenous Peoples across Canada. **[Insert Name of First Nation]** looks to the Canadian Senate to answer the TRC's *Calls to Action* by voting to advance reconciliation, human rights, and healing with Bill C-15.

[Insert sign off and signature]