

**Supporters of Truth and Reconciliation, Support Declaration Legislation:
Pass Bill C-15**

“This is about our survival, our dignity and our well-being. It is not a time to be playing with our lives. It is not a time to be playing partisan politics. It is a time to advance reconciliation.”
— Dr. Willie Littlechild, former TRC Commissioner

May 11, 2021

Dear Members of Parliament,

Six year ago, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) called on the Federal Government “to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation” (Call to Action #43) and “to develop a national action plan...to achieve the goals of the *Declaration*” (Call to Action #44). There is now an historic opportunity before you – our political representatives – to respond to these TRC calls by passing **Bill C-15, An Act respecting the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**. But time is short, and we need your concerted, non-partisan action, to expedite this essential legislation.

This past week, the former commissioners of the TRC—the Honourable Murray Sinclair, Dr. Marie Wilson, and Chief Willie Littlechild—came together to publicly demonstrate their support for Bill C-15. In a webinar with more than 1000 participants, they affirmed that Bill C-15 honours the spirit and intent of the TRC, and is a vital step toward reconciliation. Said Commission Chair Murray Sinclair:

“This is an important bill, for its content, and also as a reflection of what Canada now says it truly stands for. If it doesn’t pass, that does not bode well for the future of reconciliation.”

Canadians all across this country, of all political affiliations— Conservatives, Greens, Liberals, New Democrats, Independents, Bloc Quebecois, and more— support the work of the TRC and understand the importance of the Calls to Action. We urge you to listen to the TRC Commissioners (see [The TRC & Bill C-15 Webinar](#)) and to respond to their call to the Government by expediting the passage of Bill C-15. As Marie Wilson states,

“The Declaration is a minimum standard. It doesn’t take anything away from anyone else... It is the articulation of how things should be, and should have been all along. And what is the TRC and our report, but an articulation of the kind of societal mess that you get yourself into when you ignore all of those things [the minimum standards].”

For the sake of Indigenous peoples, for the sake of Canada, please support Truth and Reconciliation, and #PassBillC15.

For inquiries and to respond to this letter, please contact Steve Heinrichs, Indigenous-Settler Relations Director, Mennonite Church Canada at sheinrichs@mennonitechurch.ca or 1-204-888- 6781 ext. 106.

In collegial friendship,

The Faith in the Declaration Coalition
www.faithinthedeclaration.ca