

June 4, 2021

Senator Marc Gold,
Leader of the Government in the Senate
Senate of Canada
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A4

marc.gold@sen.parl.gc.ca

Dear Senator Gold,

We, the undersigned faith communities and organizations, write to express our support for Bill C-15, an Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. More specifically, we would appreciate expedited passage of the Bill (since it has so overwhelmingly been approved in the House and now passed Second Reading in the Red Chamber and has long been under pre-study by the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples.) We hope you will ensure that Third Reading debate and passage takes place before the summer recess, in order to receive Royal Assent in a timely manner.

As you are aware, Bill C-262 died in the Senate before the 2019 federal election. We were extremely disappointed when this took place, so ironically, on National Indigenous Peoples Day. It is past time to turn this sad story of prevarication around, moving towards right relationships with Indigenous Peoples of this land.

Bill C-15 is a critical step toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Call to Action #48 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission counseled all faith groups in Canada to formally adopt and comply with the principles, norms and standards of the *Declaration* as a framework for reconciliation. In this spirit, our support for Bill C-15 is an expression of our commitment to reconciliation with humility. It is part of wider efforts by faith communities to decolonize our minds and hearts, work against racism, and develop just relationships.

Implementation of the *Declaration* will require the federal government to undertake substantial consultations with Indigenous rights holders and organizations towards the development of an Action Plan. Faith communities commit to monitoring this process with care. We urge you to complete the important first step by passing Bill C-15, without amendment, and without any delay.

Sincerely,

The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls, Archbishop
and Primate,
Anglican Church of Canada

Rob Ogilvie, Executive Minister,
**Canadian Baptists of Western Canada
(CBWC)**

Jennifer Preston, General Secretary,
Canadian Friends Service Committee

Julie Turenne-Maynard, Executive Director
Catholic Health Association of Manitoba

Joe Gunn, Executive Director,
Centre Oblat

Shannon Perez, Indigenous Ministries,
Christian Reformed Churches in Canada

Mike Hogeterp,
Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue

Willard Metzger, Executive Director,
Citizens for Public Justice

Concerned Lay Catholics

Charles Duval, C.Ss.R.,
Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Canadian Redemptorists)

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

The Rev. Susan C. Johnson, National Bishop,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Mary Mallany,
Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loretto Sisters Canada)

Rev. Erik Oland, S.J., Provincial superior,
Jesuits of Canada / Jésuites du Canada

Darlene O'Leary, Coordinator,
Martha Justice Ministry, Sisters of St. Martha, Antigonish

Mennonite Church Canada

Henry Krause, Chair,
Mennonite Church BC Indigenous Relations Task Group

Missions, Peace & Justice Ministry, Stirling Ave. Mennonite Church

Father Luc Tardif, Provincial Superior,
Notre-Dame du Cap, Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Father Ken Thorson,
OMI Lacombe Canada

Rosemary Keenan, Director,
Pax Christi Toronto

Sandy Plett,
Pembina Mennonite Fellowship

Reverend Amanda Currie, Moderator,
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Teresa Kotturan,
Sisters of Charity Federation

Sister Denise Kuyp,
Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions

Karin Dufault, SP, Congregational Leader,
Sisters of Providence

Sister Sandra Shannon, General Superior,
Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul

Michèle Ashby, Coordinator
Social Justice Committee, St. James United Church

Raymonde Maisonneuve, Animatrice Générale,
Sœurs de Sainte-Croix

Dr. Sue Wilson, Executive Director,
Office for Systemic Justice, Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada

Sr. Margo Ritchie, Congregational Leader,
Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Sr. Georgette Gregory, Congregational
Leader,
Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto

Sister Mary-Ellen Francoeur,
Sisters of Service (SOS)

Rita Bailey & Donna McGreal,
**St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Social
Justice Committee and Indigenous Justice
Issues Committee**

Marianne Rev,
**Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World)
Committee, Shalom Synagogue**

Cc Senator Dan Christmas, Chair APPA

Ron Flaming,
**Truth and Reconciliation Action Group,
Waterloo North Mennonite Church**

Sister Theresa Campeau, Sister Sheila
McKinley, Sister Pauline Maheux , and Sister
Noreen Allossery-Walsh
**Ursuline Religious of the Diocese of
London in Ontario**

Tom Warkentin, Chairperson and Joe
Heikman, Paster,
Wildwood Mennonite Church