



Anglican Church of Canada



Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples



CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCHES IN CANADA



CANADIAN BAPTISTS OF ATLANTIC CANADA
Joining God in Our Neighbourhoods



QUAKERS
Canadian Friends Service Committee



Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
ELCIC In Mission for Others



The Honourable David Lametti
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario,
Canada
K1A 0A6

January 21, 2021

Minister David Lametti,

We write to express our appreciation for your government's tabling of Bill C-15; legislation to implement the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Declaration)*. Our national faith houses and faith-based organizations, along with many other faith communities, have affirmed the *Declaration* as the *framework for reconciliation* in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #48.

We are pleased that your government used Bill C-262 as the basis for implementation legislation. We are also pleased to see that you have built on C-262 and added critical elements, including references to systemic discrimination, sustainable development, climate change, and the Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

We urge priority of this draft Bill through the legislative process to ensure Royal Assent in advance of the next election.

Faith-based civil society, alongside Indigenous sisters and brothers, is keen to support the processes towards the development of the action plan and accountability mechanisms called for in C-15. We recognize this as but one of many urgent steps on the journey of justice and right relationships.

Please do let us know how we can effectively **support the passage of C-15**. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how our communities might support the implementation of the *Declaration* in Canada.

Sincerely,

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

The Most Reverend Mark MacDonald,
National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop

Peter Reid,
Executive Minister, Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada

Rob Ogilvie,
Executive Minister, Canadian Baptists of Western Canada

Lana Robinson,
Clerk, Canadian Friends Service Committee

Shannon Perez,
Justice and Reconciliation Mobilizer, Indigenous Ministries, Christian Reformed Church

Rev. Darren Roorda,
Executive Director, Canada Christian Reformed Church

Willard Metzger,
Executive Director, Citizens for Public Justice

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

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

Lori Ransom,
Interim Executive Director, KAIROS

Doug Klassen,
Executive Minister, Mennonite Church Canada

P. Luc Tardif,
Supérieur provincial – Province Notre-Dame-du-Cap, Missionnaires Oblats de Marie
Immaculée

Fr. Ken Thorson,
OMI Provincial, OMI Lacombe Canada

The Rev. Amanda Currie,
Moderator, 145th General Assembly, The Presbyterian Church in Canada