



Affaires autochtones  
et du Nord Canada

Indigenous and  
Northern Affairs Canada

Sous-ministre adjoint principal    Senior Assistant Deputy Minister

Ottawa, Canada  
K1A 0H4

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The Provincial Executive  
Manitoba School Boards Association  
191 Provencher Boulevard  
WINNIPEG MB R2H 0G4

Dear President Cameron and Members of the Provincial Executive:

This is in response to your letter of February 22, 2018, regarding the implementation of the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, specifically Calls to Action no. 43 and no. 44. I am happy to respond to your comments on behalf of Canada.

As the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, my overarching goal is to renew the relationship between Canada and Indigenous Peoples based on the recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership. A central element of this work is supporting Indigenous self-determination and self-government, and the improvement of Indigenous well-being from coast to coast to coast.

With respect to Calls to Action no. 43 and no. 44, I am happy to confirm that Canada shares your commitment to implementing and achieving the objectives of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. On May 10, 2016, Canada stated its full support, without qualification, of the Declaration at the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. On November 20, 2017, the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, announced the Government's commitment to fully implementing the Declaration, including by its support of Private Member's Bill C-262.

The Government will fulfill its commitment to implementing the Declaration through the collaborative review and reform of laws, policies, and practices together with our Indigenous partners. This work is ongoing through various mechanisms, such as the Working Group of Ministers on the Review of Laws and Policies Related to Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Bilateral Mechanisms, Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination discussions, and most recently the national engagement that I am leading on the development of a Recognition and Implementation of Indigenous Rights Framework. Our work is grounded in various sources of knowledge, such as reports,

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studies, and above all the tireless advocacy of Indigenous Peoples. This approach is in line with the Declaration's call on supporting states to implement its recommendations through measures developed in cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, and the Declaration itself is a foundational piece upon which the Framework will be built.

The Government of Canada knows that given their areas of jurisdiction and responsibility, including in relation to lands, resources, and social services, the provinces and territories have important roles to play and are necessary partners in fully operationalizing aspects of the Framework. We will work with provinces and territories to promote cooperative approaches to the recognition and implementation of Indigenous rights. In the immediate term, this work will occur through my national engagement, which includes provincial and territorial governments.

I wish to thank you for your support as we work to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. As educators, you have an important role in advancing the national understanding of our country's complex history and the realities of life in Canada for First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples today. I welcome your input in the process of developing a Recognition and Implementation of Indigenous Rights Framework; opportunities to participate in the engagement can be found at [www.canada.ca/indigenous-rights](http://www.canada.ca/indigenous-rights) on the "About the Engagement" page.

Renewing our relationships and advancing reconciliation is a national undertaking in which every Canadian has a role. Together, we can ensure that the next 150 years in Canada are defined by moving past our colonial heritage towards a more just, healthy, and prosperous society for all.

Sincerely,



Joe Wild  
Senior Assistant Deputy Minister  
Treaties and Aboriginal Government