

September 14, 2020

13th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Declaration: Treaty Commission continues to call for national legislation

VANCOUVER – On September 13, 2007 the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) was adopted at the UN General Assembly, affirming and protecting Indigenous rights worldwide, following decades of Indigenous peoples' advocacy.

The Treaty Commission marks the 13th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Declaration and encourages Canada to move forward with its commitment to implement national legislation. This past June was also the fifth anniversary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's final report and *94 Calls to Action* and in particular Call 94, which calls upon "federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation."

The negotiation of treaties, agreements and constructive arrangements is a fundamental tenet of reconciliation. The creation of federal UN Declaration legislation, in conjunction with changes to provincial policies and legislation, will contribute to stronger relationships between Indigenous peoples and the Crown. Federal UN Declaration legislation will serve to uphold and honour treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, and assist to streamline the harmonization of laws and policies. "Treaties constitutionally protect Indigenous rights and title, and are a critical mechanism to support nationwide implementation of the UN Declaration in Canada," says Chief Commissioner Celeste Haldane. Today we honour and recognize the many leaders from all over the world who dedicated tireless efforts and advocacy to achieve the UN Declaration and the universal minimum standards of Indigenous rights it embodies.

The Treaty Commission also supports the Coalition for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples statement: [*Anniversary of the Global Adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: National Implementation More Urgent than Ever.*](#)

Quick Facts:

- The BC Treaty Commission's mandate includes supporting negotiating Parties in implementing the [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), the [TRC Calls to Action](#), the [Principles Respecting the Government of Canada's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples](#), and the recognition of First Nations title and rights.
- [Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia](#) was endorsed by Canada, BC, and the First Nations Summit in September 2019
- November 2019, [the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act \(Bill 41\)](#) received Royal Assent in British Columbia.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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About the BC Treaty Commission

The Treaty Commission is the independent body responsible for overseeing treaty negotiations among the governments of Canada, BC and First Nations in BC. It has three roles: facilitation, funding, and public information and education.