The Honourable Dan Christmas,

Chair, Senate Standing Committee, Aboriginal Peoples, Senate of Canada

Dear Senator,

I write not only to express my support for Bill C-15, *An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, but more importantly, to encourage you and your fellow Senators to expedite its passage in the Senate.

As you are aware, a very similar Bill, C-262, was previously passed by the House of Commons but unfortunately died in the Senate when the 2019 election was called. We cannot again miss this essential step towards reconciliation. Please prioritize Bill C-15 so that this legislation can be passed by the Senate before the Summer 2021 recess.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Call to Action #48 denotes the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (*Declaration*) as the framework for reconciliation. The Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls also assert the *Declaration’s* significance in upholding Indigenous peoples’ fundamental and inherent rights.

As a person of faith, I believe that reconciliation with Indigenous peoples is paramount to our common wellbeing. As a citizen, I intend to continue in the urgent work for the recognition and implementation of Indigenous peoples’ human rights so that justice becomes a hallmark of our collective future.

Implementation of the *Declaration* is unfinished business for Canada. The Senate has an historic opportunity to contribute to a proud legacy for our country’s journey towards reconciliation with the Indigenous peoples of this land. I urge you to take up this challenge by moving Bill C-15 to Royal Assent as quickly as possible and before Parliament adjourns for the summer.

Sincerely,

**Add Name \Address of sender**

C.C.

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Hon. Brian Francis, Deputy Chair, Senate Standing Committee, Aboriginal Peoples,

Hon. Dennis Glen Patterson, Deputy Chair, Senate Standing Committee, Aboriginal Peoples,

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Hon. David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada,