

## **Bill C-15: An Act Respecting the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** *Resources for Understanding*

After years of Indigenous-led advocacy, the Government of Canada tabled federal legislation on December 3, 2020 to implement the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP). The following is an introductory list of resources that can help communities understand what *Bill C-15* is, the diverse conversations that surround it, the history of how we got here, why many—Indigenous organizations, unions, faith communities, and more—are supporting C-15, and why some do not. This list is not exhaustive, but it can help raise awareness and nurture informed reflection. If you are aware of important resources that are missing, please send me an email at [sheinrichs@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:sheinrichs@mennonitechurch.ca), and I will update this list as we go along. In friendship,

— *Steve Heinrichs*  
*Indigenous-Settler Relations director, Mennonite Church Canada*  
*Treaty 1 & Homeland of the Métis Nation (Winnipeg)*  
*March 10, 2021*

### ***Text & Status of Bill C-15***

- [Text of Bill C-15](#)
- [Status of Bill C-15](#)

### ***Truth & Reconciliation Commission Call for Declaration Legislation***

- [The TRC on the UN Declaration & the Government of Canada](#)

### ***Statements in support of Bill C-15***

- [Amnesty International](#)
- [Assembly of First Nations](#)
- [BC Treaty Commission](#)
- [Canadian Labour Congress](#)
- [Canadian Friends Service Committee](#)
- [Coalition for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)
- [Cree Nation Government](#)

- [Dene Nation](#)
- [Inuit Circumpolar Conference](#)
- [Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami](#)
- [Metis National Council](#)
- [Native Women's Association of Canada](#)
- [Truth & Reconciliation Commission - Commissioners Statement](#)
- [Prominent Indigenous Leaders Write Open Letter in Support of Bill C-15](#)
- [150+ signatures on open letter from Nations, organizations, experts and activists supporting Bill C-15](#)

#### ***Statements against Bill C-15***

- [Idle No More & Defenders of the Land - UNDRIP Bill C-15 Deeply Flawed and Must Be Rejected \(Dec. 11, 2020\)](#)
- [Association of Iroquois & Allied Indians - Opposition to the UNDRIP Act - \(see pp. 8-9 / Nov. 3-5, 2020\)](#)
- [Six Nations elected council wants Bill C-15 to align with UNDRIP \(Dec. 16, 2020\)](#)

#### ***Statements of concern with Bill C-15***

- [Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs reacts to introduction of Bill C-15 in the House of Commons \(Dec. 3, 2020\)](#)
- [Nishnawbe Aski Nation Statement on Introduction of Federal Legislation on UNDRIP Implementation \(Dec. 3, 2020\)](#)

#### ***In-Depth Analysis***

- [Coalition for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples - Implementing the UNDRIP: Myths & Misrepresentations \(October 2020\)](#)

- [Assembly of First Nations - Update on Federal Bill to advance implementation of the Declaration; comparison of Bill C-15 & Bill C-262 \(Dec. 3, 2020\)](#)
- [Government of Canada: Implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Canada \(Dec. 3, 2020\)](#)
- [Idle No More - UNDRIP Bill C-15 Deeply Flawed and Must Be Rejected \(Dec. 11, 2020\)](#)
- [Yellowhead Institute - The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Lessons from B.C. \(Dec. 15, 2020\)](#)
- [Grand Council of the Crees - Understanding Bill C-15 \(Jan. 28, 2021\)](#)
- [Coalition for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples - Self-determination & Free, Prior, and Informed Consent \(Feb. 1, 2021\)](#)
- [OKT Law – Bill C-15 \(UNDRIP Act\) Commentary \(Feb. 2021\)](#)
- [Assembly of First Nations - Discussion Guide on Bill C-15 \(Feb. 2021\)](#)

### ***News Articles/Op-Eds***

- [Aljazeera - Canada introduces bill to apply UNDRIP \(Dec. 3, 2020\)](#)
- [CBC - Indigenous rights advocates 'cautiously optimistic' about Liberal UNDRIP legislation \(Dec. 3, 2020\)](#)
- [Globe & Mail - Six provinces urged Ottawa to delay legislation, but were rebuffed by Justice Minister \(Dec. 4, 2020\)](#)
- [Toronto Star - UNDRIP legislation met with applause and caution \(Dec. 5, 2020\)](#)
- [National Post - The Liberals adopting an Indigenous rights declaration won't clean anyone's water \(Dec. 5, 2020\)](#)
- [Nunatsiaq News - Bill C-15: symbolism that matters \(Dec. 7, 2020\)](#)
- [Globe & Mail - What Canadians should understand about the federal UNDRIP bill \(Dec. 7, 2020\)](#)
- [National Observer - If Indigenous people exercise their right to say no... then what? \(Dec. 8, 2020\)](#)

- [Yellowknifer - NWT political leaders support federal move to entrench UNDRIP in Canadian law \(Dec. 10, 2020\)](#)
- [Catholic Register - Move C-15 forward \(Dec. 10, 2020\)](#)
- [APTN - Battle Brewing over UNDRIP: A primer on government Bill C-15 \(Dec. 15, 2020\)](#)
- [CBC - Implementation of UNDRIP 'long overdue' says key figure who helped draft it \(Dec. 15, 2020\)](#)
- [Toronto Star - 'Let's UNDRIP this, shall we?' - achieving human rights for Indigenous people now \(Dec. 15, 2020\)](#)
- [First Peoples Law - A Cold Rains Falls \(December 16, 2020\)](#)
- [Parry Sound - Conservative MP says UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples good next step \(Dec. 16, 2020\)](#)
- [Two Row Times - Compromised parties whittle down international human rights standards for Canadian law application \(Dec. 16, 2020\)](#)
- [Canadian Bar Association - A Critical Milestone on the Road to Reconciliation \(Dec. 17, 2020\)](#)
- [Fasken \(Law Firm, specializes in mining industries\) - Federal Government introduces UNDRIP legislation \(Dec. 16, 2020\)](#)
- [APTN - UNDRIP bill is the way forward says justice minister, while critic says it lacks clarity \(Dec. 17, 2020\)](#)
- [Financial Post - Opinion: Nobody needs UNDRIP, except maybe lawyers \(Dec. 18, 2020\)](#)
- [APTN - Opinion: Federal UNDRIP Bill C-15 is an attack on Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination \(Dec. 21, 2020\)](#)
- [Christian Peacemaker Teams - Walk Humbly: Seeking Indigenous Rights in Contested Paths \(Dec. 28, 2020\)](#)
- [Financial Post - Opinion: UNDRIP will slow, not hasten, Indigenous development \(Jan. 8, 2021\)](#)
- [Toronto Star - Is Justin Trudeau's plan for Indigenous rights a step in the right direction, or just another hollow promise from Ottawa? \(Jan. 11, 2021\)](#)

- [Toronto Star - Opinion: Perry Bellegarde \(AFN Grand Chief\): Potential to implement UN Indigenous rights declaration a sign of hope for the New Year \(Jan. 11, 2021\)](#)
- [CBC - Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug opposes federal government's proposal to implement UNDRIP \(Jan. 26, 2021\)](#)
- [Globe & Mail - Passing law to implement UNDRIP will move First Nations closer to self-determination, Bellegarde says \(Feb. 9, 2021\)](#)
- [Hill Times - Faith voices support Bill C-15 \(Feb. 15, 2021\)](#)
- [Ottawa Citizen - Gunn and Neve: Canada mustn't wait any longer to implement the UN declaration on Indigenous rights \(Feb. 24, 2021\)](#)
- [Anglican Journal - 'Canada needs healing': Bishop Isaiah Beardy on Bill C-15 and UNDRIP \(Feb 25, 2021\)](#)
- [Catholic Register - Canadian bishops prepare response to Bill C-15 \(Feb. 25, 2021\)](#)

#### ***Audio-Video Interviews on Bill C-15***

- [Interview with John Borrows \(Anishinaabe, law scholar\) - Canada moves to harmonize its Indigenous rights with those declared by the UN - Global News \(Dec. 4, 2020\)](#)
- [Interview with Justice Minister David Lametti - Improving Indigenous rights will mean Canada is living up to its potential \(Dec. 7, 2020\)](#)
- [Interview with Senator Murray Sinclair - Bloomberg News - UN Declaration would enhance Indigenous rights \(Dec. 8, 2020\)](#)
- [Interview with Stewart Muir \(Executive Director of Resource Works\) - Danielle Smith Show \(Begins at 26:25 minute mark / Dec. 8, 2020\)](#)
- [Interview with Senator Scott Tannas - Bloomberg News - Legislation improvements for Indigenous rights still leaves us in uncharted territory \(Dec. 14, 2020\)](#)
- [CBC Radio - L'nuey \[PEI Mi'kmaq Rights-based organization\] Support Declaration Legislation \(Dec. 15, 2020\)](#)
- [Interview with Justice Minister & Conservative Critic - APTN Nation to Nation \(Dec. 17, 2020\)](#)

- [Financial Post - Tom Flanagan: Saying UNDRIP contains to Veto is disingenuous \(Dec. 19, 2020\)](#)
- [Interview with Phil Fontaine \(former AFN Grand Chief\) – Bloomberg News – Bill C-15 and Economic Impacts \(Dec. 30, 2020\)](#)
- [Interview with Romeo Saganash \(Cree advocate for UNDRIP, author of Bill C-262\) - Warrior Life Podcast w/ Pam Palmater - UNDRIP History and Bill C-15 \(Jan. 9, 2021\)](#)
- [Interview with Chief Willie Littlechild \(former commissioner of the TRC\) – Ahkameyimok Podcast - \(Feb. 4, 2021\)](#)
- [Interview with Romeo Saganash \(Cree advocate for UNDRIP, author of Bill C-262\) - Ahkameyimok Podcast \(Feb 24, 2021\)](#)

### ***Resources for Further Learning about the Declaration***

- [Text of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)
- [Coalition for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples - Fact Sheets and In-depth Analysis](#)
- Videos – The history behind the UNRIP with Kenneth Deer (Mohawk): [Part 1](#) & [Part 2](#)
- [Braiding Legal Orders: Implementing the UNDRIP \(Centre for International Governance Innovation, 2019\)](#)
- [Charmaine White Face, \*Indigenous Nations' Rights in the Balance\* \(2013\) \[provides an analysis and critique of the final draft of the Declaration adopted in 2007\].](#)
- [Assembly of First Nations - \*Implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples\* \(2017\)](#)
- [Videos by the Centre for International Governance Innovation on the UN Declaration and Implementation](#)
- [Video - John Borrows on Implementing UNDRIP, the TRC, & Federal Legislation \(2018\)](#)
- [\*Realizing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples\* \(2010\)](#)
- [Faith Houses in Support of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)
- [KAIROS Canada - Let Justice Roll: Implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(2017\)](#)

- [\*Wrongs to Rights: How Churches can Engage the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(2016\)\*](#)
- [\*Lifting Hearts Off The Ground: Declaring Indigenous Rights in Poetry \(2016\)\*](#)
- [\*Menonite World Conference - Declaration of Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples \(2018\)\*](#)
- [\*Praying through the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples\*](#)
- For more resources on the Declaration and Indigenous rights, please visit [www.commonword.ca/UNDRIP](http://www.commonword.ca/UNDRIP)