



**Human Rights Council**  
**Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**  
**Ninth Session**  
**Item 8 - Canada's Approach to Implementation of the UNDRIP**  
**Statement of Canada**  
July 14, 2016

Thank you Mr. Chair and members of the EMRIP,

First I would like to apologize for Canada's late submission of our response to the questionnaire. We recognize the importance of these types of questionnaires to advance and promote the work of the EMRIP.

The Government of Canada is pleased to take this opportunity to provide you with information on how Canada is working to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

The Government of Canada is deeply committed to renewing the relationship between the Crown and Indigenous Peoples based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership.

De nombreuses organisations autochtones, les communautés et les personnes, les leaders de l'industrie, et les Canadiens ont demandé au gouvernement du Canada d'adopter la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones. Le rapport final de la Commission vérité et réconciliation a mentionné la Déclaration de nombreuses fois, et inclus dans leurs appels à l'action d'une recommandation de mettre en œuvre la Déclaration dans le cadre du travail vital vers la réconciliation avec les peuples autochtones au Canada.

This is why Canada recently announced its full support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples before the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

And we are hearing from Indigenous peoples in Canada that we must move swiftly so as not to lose the momentum created by Canada's statement.

Le gouvernement du Canada va engager et travailler aux côtés des Premières nations, des peuples Inuits, des Métisse, ainsi qu'avec les provinces et les territoires, et les promoteurs de l'industrie sur la façon de mettre en œuvre les principes de la Déclaration en automne 2016. Les résultats de cet engagement seront utilisés pour élaborer un plan d'action pour mettre en œuvre la Déclaration conformément à la Constitution Canadienne.

Through section 35, the Canadian Constitution provides a robust framework for the protection of Aboriginal and treaty rights. By adopting and implementing the Declaration, we are breathing new life into Section 35 and recognizing it as a full box of rights for Indigenous peoples.

We are also re-engaging in a renewed nation-to-nation, government-to-government and Inuit-to-Crown process with Indigenous peoples to make progress on the issues most important to them – including housing, infrastructure, health and mental health care, child welfare, and education.

It is our hope to engage all Canadians in support of this important work to advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and to achieve the ends of the Declaration in Canada.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.