Eighth Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
20 to 24 July 2015

Item 3: Follow-up to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, including the review of the mandate of the Expert Mechanism

Statement delivered by Jesse McCormick on behalf of the Deshkan Ziibing Anishinaabeg, also known as Chippewas of the Thames First Nation.

My name is Jesse McCormick. I am a citizen of the Deshkan Ziibing Anishinaabeg, also known as Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. Our territories are located in the Great Lakes region of Canada. We are pleased to present the following statement on Item 3.

Chippewas of the Thames First Nation participated as an observer at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in New York and provided submissions to the World Conference relating to the protection and promotion of treaty rights. We also expressed our concerns relating to the failure of the Government of Canada to support the Outcome Document.

We wish to inform the Expert Mechanism that although the Government of Canada has not embraced the spirit and potential of the Outcome Document there are bodies and governments within Canada that have committed to positive action in relation to the Declaration. We draw your attention to the positive efforts of the Province of Alberta. On July 7, 2015, Premier Rachel Notley asked Cabinet Ministers from the Province of Alberta to conduct a review, including budget implications, of the policies of their respective Ministries, programs and legislation that may require changes based on the principles of the Declaration. Chippewas of the Thames First Nation commends the Government of Alberta for demonstrating leadership in Canada in relation to the implementation of the Declaration. We attach to the hard copy of our submission a copy of Premier Notley’s July 7, 2015 letter for your reference.

The Expert Mechanism has sought submissions relating to how best to modify or improve the Expert Mechanism in order to more effectively promote respect for the Declaration, including by better assisting Member States to monitor, evaluate and improve the achievement of the ends of the Declaration. Chippewas of the Thames First Nation recommends that the Expert Mechanism be permitted to issue commendations to governments that take positive actions to implement the Declaration in order to recognize and promote the effective achievement of the ends of the Declaration.