

Speaking Notes

For

**Deputy Permanent Representative Tamara Mawhinney,
Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations in
Geneva**

**Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
15th Session**

*Item 9: Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the Rights of
Indigenous Peoples, the Chair of the UNPFII, the Board of
Trustees of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, and
members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women and the Human Rights Committee on UNDRIP
implementation*

In Person – XIX, Palais des Nations

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Thank you, Chair.

Canada recognizes that Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit and gender-diverse people are often victims of discrimination and continue to experience alarmingly high rates of violence.

In response to the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, the Government of Canada, alongside Indigenous partners and organizations, families, survivors, and provinces and territories, launched the *2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan* on June 3, 2021.

The federal component outlines the current and future commitments of the Government of Canada to end gender-based violence and systemic racism.

Addressing issues that affect Indigenous peoples requires their full participation and engagement, in keeping with the rights outlined in Articles 18 and 41 of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. In this regard, we appreciate the

opportunity to hear from the esteemed representatives on how the rights set forth in the UN Declaration can be better embraced and reflected across the UN system and its modalities. And we stand ready to collaborate with your offices to achieve this.

We also look forward to the planned visit to Canada by EMRIP. This will be an important opportunity to benefit from EMRIP's expert advice and to learn from the best practices of others.

At home, our inaugural annual report regarding progress made on the implementation of the *UN Declaration Act* was tabled in Parliament on June 21, 2022. The Act ensures sustained and continued efforts to recognize and respect the rights of Indigenous peoples now and in the future and contains commitment to hold the federal government accountable for implementation of the Act moving forward.

Lastly, we want to acknowledge the important presence of the Voluntary Fund on this panel. We appreciate the significant role of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Issues and its partner the Indigenous Fellowship Program, in facilitating enhanced participation in UN fora. Canada is very pleased to have announce support for these initiatives with a commitment of 3

million dollars Canadian over 3 years. It is vital that we use these venues to ensure that Indigenous voices are heard on issues that affect them.

Meegwetch. Thank you. Merci.