

And congratulations on your nomination Madame Chair!

CORPUS  
THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR

Weds, 24 April: 10 am – 11.30 am (Item 11: Dialogue with Special Rapporteur + EMRIP) \*3 minutes of speaking remarks

- Good ~~morning~~ <sup>AFTERNOON</sup>, this statement is on behalf of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples in Canada. MY NAME IS ROBERT BERTRAND AND I'M THE NATIONAL CHIEF OF CAPS IN CANADA
- ~~We~~ <sup>CAPS</sup> advocates for the rights, interests and needs of Indigenous peoples who live off-reserve in urban, rural and remote areas across Canada. Our peoples are status and non-status Indians, Métis peoples, and the Inuit of Southern Labrador. ~~It will be speaking to violations of our UNDRIP rights in Canada.~~
- Section 33 of UNDRIP is unequivocal that Indigenous people have the right to determine their own identity and membership. We have the right to determine the structures and to select the membership of our institutions in accordance with our own procedures.
- Yet in Canada, the government still exercises control over who can be recognized and registered as "Indian" under the paternalistic and discriminatory legislation of the *Indian Act*. With recent amendments to the *Act*, Canada has made some progress toward the elimination of some sex-based restrictions, but it does not go far enough. Inequalities and discrimination persist, such as a "second generation cut-off" that prevents "Indians" with one non-indigenous parent from passing on their status to their children.
- Hundreds of thousands of our peoples have been cut off from their communities through over a century of this system explicitly designed to gradually force us to assimilate into mainstream settler society. Around 230,000 First Nations people in Canada are not Registered, and many more are registered but do not belong to a First Nations band or self-government.
- The Canadian government provides needed resources based only on the members who meet its requirements for Registration for Status and funds are ~~often~~ focused to those who reside on reserves.
- CAP seeks to ensure that all Indigenous peoples have substantively equal access to programs and services, and that our Indigenous and treaty rights, as guaranteed in Canada's Constitution and recognized in UNDRIP, are given equal protection regardless of residence or *Indian Act* status.
- For Canada's Indigenous peoples to fully be enabled to exercise the right to self-determination as affirmed in Article 3 of UNDRIP, Canada must establish mechanisms to recognize the Indigeneity of these "forgotten people".

(We look ~~to~~ <sup>FORWARD</sup> TO THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR TO COME TO CANADA AND TO WITNESS FIRST! THE INEQUALITIES BETWEEN OUR DIFFERENT GROUPS)

Merci Meegwich  
Thank You