

**EXPERT MECHANISM ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
TWELFTH SESSION**

Geneva, Switzerland, July 15-July 19 2019

Item 8 UNDRIP study of Indigenous Peoples recognition, reparation and reconciliation

Invention Delivered by Kahsenniyo Tahnee Skinner Wilson

She:kon sewakwekon

My name is Kahsenniyo and I am a member of the Mohawk Nation Wolf Clan, as well I am a recipient of the Voluntary fund and would like to express my gratitude for being here.

I am a mother of four amazing teenage daughters. I have never known what it is like to mother my children without the weight of defending my land, without the fear and implications of the state's violent, assimilative and genocidal policies.

Over the past several years the Canadian government has embarked on a reconciliation journey that is overtly disrespectful to the very purpose it proports to fulfill. The implementation of the 94 calls to action from the TRC and the process of reconciliation have been manipulated to fulfil the states interest in traditional lands, resources and control of indigenous people's lives.

Specific areas of concern include

- Bill S3: which strips nations of determining for themselves utilizing cultural practices and customs who is a member of their nation
- Creation and Implementation of Modern Treaty and Self Governance Agreements. These mechanisms will only subordinate Indigenous communities and will NOT foster true Indigenous Self Governance
- the creation and implementation of a financial framework that will obliterate their fiduciary responsibilities to Indigenous nations

Furthermore, Canada to this day refuses to recognize my traditional government, the Haudensaunee Confederacy, as the governing body of my people. In fact, they continue to uphold state-imposed governance on my people, denying my people recognition. To this end, the ongoing refusal of the state to recognize my traditional government and the current Indigenous policies outlined, the following recommendations are being made:

- EMRIP continue to encourage States to take effective measures to implement Article 5 and 8 of UNDRIP
- For EMRIP to work with the state to implement the study in a way that will honour and uplift Indigenous peoples

In conclusion, Reconciliation should be a process in which indigenous rights to govern own people, their traditional lands and resources are *affirmed*. Under no circumstances should reconciliation be utilized as a mechanism to impose policies that further assimilate indigenous peoples or to solidify state interest in our lands and resources.

Niaweh Madam Chair