

\*Check against delivery

Permanent Mission of Canada  
to the United Nations  
and the World Trade Organization



Mission permanente du Canada  
auprès des Nations Unies  
et de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce

**HRC42**  
**Annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of Indigenous peoples**  
**18 September 2019**

Canada welcomes this discussion to mark the International Year of Indigenous Languages.

We are reminded of the integral role that language plays in identity and inclusion.

And we are reminded that Indigenous languages matter for development, peace building and reconciliation.

That is why investing in promoting and preserving Indigenous languages is so important.

As States consider ways to achieve the goals of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, supporting Indigenous peoples to reclaim, revitalize, maintain and strengthen their languages is an important path forward.

Canada has passed legislation to support all Indigenous languages in Canada.

A key provision of this legislation is the recognition that the rights of Indigenous peoples include rights related to Indigenous languages.

A good practice that Canada would encourage other States to adopt is to co-develop policies and programs in partnership with Indigenous peoples.

It was through collaborative engagement with Indigenous peoples that Canada's legislation was drafted.

But passing legislation is not enough.

Reconciliation requires implementation.

In Canada, we are investing in Indigenous language revitalization projects and working jointly with Indigenous partners on long-term funding approaches and mechanisms.

Countries around the world can support Indigenous peoples by investing in the revitalization, recognition and protection of their languages.

Investing in Indigenous languages demonstrates a commitment to reconciliation, respect for Indigenous worldviews, knowledge, and customs as well as their importance to cultural identity.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask the panel participants how you view the links between today's discussion and the 9 core international human rights instruments, specifically the International Covenant on Social, Political and Cultural Rights?