

Statement of the Antelope  
Reserve Tribal Council,  
Manitoba, Canada.

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Madden Chairperson and members  
of the Working Group on Indigenous  
Populations.

WGIP 17/NAM.CAN/13

First, the Antelope Reserve Tribal  
Council is composed of seven  
Indian First Nations located  
in Manitoba Canada, with  
a total population of 7,822  
members.

Second We make this short  
presentation before this distinguished  
gathering of indigenous nations  
from around the world with  
the full knowledge and appreciation  
of the work that you, members  
of modern chairpersons and members  
of your group, have made  
toward securing the rights  
of indigenous peoples.

Third, we would, however, like  
to present to you our position

on the development of international standards for the recognition of our indigenous rights and the rights of all indigenous peoples. Having compared the principles of the declaration put forward by the indigenous nations in 1985 with those of the Working Group, we wish to go on record as supporting these 20 principles as proposed by the indigenous nations. While I cannot comment on each of the principles, I would, however, like to make comments on particularly 2, 3, 4 and 16.

Members of the Working Group, the First Nations of the Chilulake Reserves Tribal Council entered into treaties with the Crown in 1871 and 1875. They are treaties 1, 2 and 5. In entering into those treaties, we entered with the recognition of our nationhood and our right to consent.

But, at the same time, that we entered into treaties, the Government of Canada began the passage of a series of Indian Acts, which destroyed our institutions of government, our culture, our language and denied us our economic rights by transferring our lands under aboriginal <sup>title</sup> to the province of Manitoba in the Resources Transfer Agreement of 1931. Today, several of our First Nations & our Tribal Council have lands on them under the Specific Claims policy of the Government of Canada. We have been working on this for over 10 years, yet there is no resolution of these land issues between the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada.

With our institutions of government destroyed by Indian Acts from 1867 to 1985, with our lands and resources limited

Of small reserves, our treaties have been eroded and in fact destroyed as a basis for our Indian Nations relationship with the Crown.

It is therefore of utmost importance that our treaties, our lands and resources and our right to self-determination and self-government be restored and that our treaties be recognized and protected as equal and full treaties by international law and declarations.

We want to make it clear Madam Chairperson, that while our First Nations of our Tribal Council number only 7,000 persons in a province of over 1 million we are not a minority seeking minority rights through affirmative action programs. We are Nations with the inherent right of

self-determination and rights  
to our lands and resources.

We therefore reject the  
Government of Canada's  
program of Indian Government  
evolution and negotiation.  
We reject the efforts through  
the ~~Government~~ Hilson report  
to shift the trust obligations  
of the Crown of Canada to  
the province. We reject  
the Federal Government's  
program and policies to  
make us municipal  
governments under the  
Province of Manitoba.

Madam Chairperson, without  
hesitation, we support  
the indigenous peoples proposal  
on the declaration of principles  
for indigenous peoples. We  
cannot accept declarations  
which to us make us  
minorities within the state  
of Canada and the Province  
of Manitoba.

Nations we have always been -

nations we will always  
be.

Thank you

Ed Anderson  
Chief, Fairford First Nation  
Chairman, Abitibi Lake  
Reserve Tribal Council