



Speaking Notes

For

Daniel Quan-Watson

Deputy Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

20th Session

Plenary Session

Plenary Item 4 Discussion on the six mandate areas of the Permanent Forum (economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health, and human rights), with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Via Interprefy

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 or Thursday, April 29, 2021

Check Against Delivery:

Word Count: 318 (Statement CANNOT exceed 2 minutes)

Thank you Chair.

The Government of Canada is committed to advancing meaningful reconciliation and accelerating the renewal of the Crown's relationship with Indigenous Peoples based on an affirmation of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership. This means addressing systemic inequalities faced by Indigenous Peoples.

Canada recognizes the value of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a foundational element for reconciliation and for re-balancing the relationship between the State and Indigenous Peoples. We remain committed to passing co-developed legislation to implement the Declaration, which is currently before the Canadian House of Commons.

Canada undertook an extensive process of engagement with a wide cross-section of Indigenous partners on the development of this draft legislation, including with national and regional organizations, Indigenous governments, youth, women's organizations, Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer representatives, provincial, and territorial governments.

Le Canada met en œuvre également des politiques et des instruments législatifs qui insufflent un dynamisme à la Déclaration et sont guidés par son esprit et son objectif, dont l'élaboration d'un plan d'action national pour donner suite à l'Enquête nationale sur les femmes et les filles autochtones disparues et assassinées; l'apport d'investissements massifs pour soutenir la guérison, le bien-être, l'éducation, les langues autochtones et la culture; et la commémoration pour les survivants des pensionnats indiens administrés par le gouvernement fédéral. Le Canada demeure déterminé à régler les affaires en instance par la négociation plutôt que par le contentieux.

Nous nous efforçons également de promouvoir l'autodétermination des Autochtones en renforçant leur capacité de gouvernance et en multipliant les débouchés économiques en vue de conclure des partenariats authentiques, réciproques, de nation à nation, entre Inuits et la Couronne et de gouvernement à gouvernement entre les communautés autochtones et le gouvernement du Canada.

We know there is much more to do, and Canada is committed to continue this work in true partnership with Indigenous Peoples to advance true reconciliation in Canada.

Thank you.