



Ken Neumann
National Director/ Directeur national

September 13, 2017

Via email: *pm@pm.gc.ca; justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca; carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca;
Jane.Philpott@parl.gc.ca; Jody.Wilson-Raybould@parl.gc.ca*

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Honourable Carolyn Bennett
Minister for Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Honourable Jane Philpott
Minister of Indigenous Services
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould,
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada,
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Re: Bill C-262: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act

Dear Prime Minister, Minister Bennett, Minister Philpott and Minister Wilson-Raybould,

The United Steelworkers supports reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and has endorsed the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action. According to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Canada must adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.

Over a year ago, the USW announced our support for Bill C-262, because it will ensure that the laws of Canada respect the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We agree that, as a nation, no relationship is more important than the relationship with Indigenous peoples. Bill C-262 is a unique opportunity for Canada to move towards a true nation-to-nation relationship.

United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union
Syndicat international des travailleurs unis de la métallurgie, du papier et de la foresterie, du caoutchouc,
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Our Union cares about this bill because, as Canadians, we want to heal relationships between Indigenous Canadians and other Canadians. And we care about this bill because our members include Indigenous people. This is a Steelworker issue.

As Steelworkers have met with Liberal MPs to ask for their support, we've heard two criticisms of the Declaration: that it is inconsistent with Canada's Constitution and that it gives Indigenous peoples a veto over development. We respectfully disagree. Scores of Canadian legal scholars have publicly stated that the Declaration is consistent with the Constitution and the Charter, if not essential for its true implementation. And the right to free, prior and informed consent is not automatically a veto, but instead a means for Indigenous peoples to participate fairly and equally in key decisions affecting their lives and territories.

For all of the above reasons, we are asking your government to vote in favour of Bill C-262.

Sincerely,



Ken Neumann
National Director

KN/slq

cc. Romeo Saganash, M.P.