



## Indigenous Justice: Being Good Relations

### Questions for Candidates

- **Will you and your party work in collaboration with Indigenous peoples to pass a bill harmonizing Canadian law with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?**
- **Will you respect free, prior, and informed consent on development projects on Indigenous territory?**
- **How will you and your party work with Indigenous people to implement a National Action Plan to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people?**
- **will your party make sure that equitable access to basic rights such as employment, housing, education, safety, and health care is recognized as a fundamental means of preventing violence?**

### Why Ask These Questions?

The United Church of Canada believes that we are, as peoples, meant to be in right relationship, and that we have been given the ministry of reconciliation. To formalize this theological conviction we adopted and committed to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2016.

The Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2015) and the Calls to Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019) provide a framework for how we can truly reconcile and be good relations with each other.

In this election, it's crucial to find out where candidates and parties stand on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Calls to Justice of the National Inquiry.

### Background Information

The **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** is a global affirmation of Indigenous peoples' existing rights. The rights of Indigenous peoples include the rights to self-determination; to participate in decision-making; to cultural and spiritual identity; to lands and resources; to free, prior, and informed consent; and to freedom from discrimination.

Canada affirmed its "full support" of the Declaration in May 2016, and the government voted for Bill C-262, a private member's bill designed to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the UN Declaration. Bill C-262 passed the House of Commons but was filibustered in the Senate and died on 21 June 2019 when Parliament rose.

In May 2019 the **National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls** released its findings. The Inquiry found that genocide is the root cause of why so many Indigenous women and girls have been murdered or gone missing. (This is different from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's conclusion, which found that Canada committed cultural genocide.) The report of the National Inquiry included Calls to Justice to address the genocide of Indigenous women and girls.

The Inquiry's first Call to Justice is that all governments establish a National Action Plan to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. This action plan *must* make sure that education, employment, housing, and healthcare are available to everyone and that there are more supports for people who have the least.

## Learn More

[www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html](http://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html)

[www.mmiwg-ffada.ca](http://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca)

[www.united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/un-declaration-rights-indigenous-peoples](http://www.united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/un-declaration-rights-indigenous-peoples)

[www.united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/truth-and-reconciliation-commission](http://www.united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/truth-and-reconciliation-commission)

[www.united-church.ca/news/sad-news-climate-action-and-indigenous-rights](http://www.united-church.ca/news/sad-news-climate-action-and-indigenous-rights)

[www.united-church.ca/news/let-be-last-inquiry](http://www.united-church.ca/news/let-be-last-inquiry)

*In Christ God was reconciling the world  
to himself...and entrusting the message  
of reconciliation to us.*

2 Corinthians 5:19