

Press Release
For Immediate Release



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Chief Robert Joseph of Reconciliation Canada supports BC government's legislation to implement UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

VANCOUVER, BC - "The provincial government should be applauded for its extraordinary courage for taking this giant step for our society. This legislation will allow us to recognize the constitutional and human rights of Indigenous people," says Chief Robert Joseph, Ambassador of Reconciliation Canada as he is referring to today's momentous initiative by the provincial government: the Introduction of legislation to implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the Truth and Reconciliation Commission confirms as the framework for reconciliation.

"This is one of the most significant human rights milestones achieved for Indigenous peoples by any government in the world. B.C. has set a legislative precedent that can guide the way forward for all provinces across this country as well as at the federal level for meaningful recognition and engagement," adds Karen Joseph, CEO of Reconciliation Canada.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples includes 46 articles meant to recognize the basic human rights of Indigenous Peoples' along with their rights to self-determination. Article 32 is among those in the declaration often cited by Indigenous leadership. It directs states to obtain free, prior and informed consent from Indigenous groups before approving projects that would affect their lands or territories.

The Province has been working with the First Nations Leadership Council (BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit and Union of BC Indian Chiefs), to develop the legislation. With the legislation, the Province, Indigenous Peoples, businesses and local governments will have better tools to build effective relationships and a robust and sustainable economy together.

"This is something we should all aspire to and be proud of. At the same time, it will be a beacon for all of us to advance reconciliation as recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The bill will create a foundational pillar for deeper inclusion and equality for all without diminishing the same for all others," concludes Chief Robert Joseph.

ABOUT RECONCILIATION CANADA

Reconciliation Canada is an Indigenous-led charitable organization acting as a catalyst and guide for social change, and a leading voice for reconciliation across the country. With its vision for vibrant inclusive Canada, Reconciliation Canada works to engage multi-faith and multi-cultural communities to explore the meaning of reconciliation and create a new way forward in which all people achieve their optimum potential and shared prosperity.

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Reconciliation Canada runs Reconciliation Dialogue Workshops, conveys thought leaders, and hosts national events such as the Walk for Reconciliation. The organization's current initiative focuses on Indigenous women's leadership role in an economic reconciliation framework that recognizes the responsible stewardship of the lands, waterways and air.

For more information please visit reconciliationcanada.ca.

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