



ALBERTA
INDIGENOUS RELATIONS

Office of the Minister

46686

February 10, 2021

Mr. Dale Swampy
President
National Coalition of Chiefs
111 Everstone Rise SW
Calgary, AB T2Y 4J7

Delivered via email to: daleswampy@coalitionofchiefs.ca

Dear Mr. Swampy:

Thank you for your time on January 28, 2021 to meet with me and discuss your concerns about federal Bill C-15, *An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

Alberta is committed to a path of reconciliation and shared prosperity with Indigenous Peoples. This path reflects the unique legal landscape in Alberta, which provides protection for the rights of Indigenous Peoples within the context of our historical treaties, the 1930 *Natural Resources Transfer Act*, Canada's constitutional framework, and common law.

Our province has advanced significant initiatives, from establishing the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation, which provides a \$1 billion backstop for Indigenous investment in natural resource projects and infrastructure, to protocol agreements, the Indigenous Litigation Fund and the Alberta Joint Working Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. As part of this path, Alberta supports actions that will improve outcomes for Indigenous People in Alberta.

Thank you for sharing your concern that Bill C-15, as currently drafted, could cause harm to Indigenous economic development, employment, and community benefits. In particular, uncertainty around free, prior and informed consent has the potential to stall or even stop projects from moving forward. This would further harm investor confidence and create barriers to the development of natural resource projects that are important to Indigenous economic prosperity in Alberta.

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It is important that the federal government hear your concerns about Bill C-15. I urge you to consider contacting the federal government, including federal ministers, members of parliament across the country, and senators to share your concerns. I also urge you to consider reaching out to your network of colleagues, members, and business leaders, so that the potential consequences of Bill C-15 do not go unnoticed.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to speak with me on this important matter and I am grateful for your efforts to advocate for the interests of the National Coalition of Chiefs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Rick Wilson
Minister of Indigenous Relations