



November 29, 2017

Romeo Saganash  
Member of Parliament  
925 Confederation  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

*Via mail and email*

Dear Mr. Saganash:

**Re: Bill C-262: An Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the  
*United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples***

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Thank you for your letter of October 31, 2017 requesting our support for Bill C-262 which aims to guarantee the recognition and protection of Indigenous rights in Canada.

The Manitoba Human Rights Commission unreservedly supports the full implementation of the *United Nations of Indigenous Peoples* in Canada and its provinces.

The Manitoba Human Rights Commission has been actively involved in efforts to implement the Declaration since 2012. In 2012 the Manitoba Human Rights Commission called on the Manitoba Government to formally endorse and implement the Declaration. More recently, the Commission has incorporated into its own strategic plan a commitment to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, which includes implementation of the Declaration as it pertains to the Commission's work. To this end and in light of its human rights mandate, the Commission has launched a multi-year project, called *Making Connections*, which is geared toward identifying and eliminating barriers experienced by Indigenous people in the province.

Full implementation of the Declaration is essential to recognizing the fundamental human right of Indigenous people to be free from discrimination and to have equality of opportunity in this country, but is also of course, essential to reconciliation.

In our view, Bill C-262 is one way, and a pivotal way, in which we can move toward full implementation of the Declaration. It provides a specific map to put the Declaration in action and for this reason, we join the many who support Bill C-262.

The federal government's endorsement of the Declaration in recent years, and its current support of Bill C-262 is commendable and we hope that it signals true cooperation and mutual respect that will enable the recognition of human rights and further us along the path to reconciliation.

Yours truly,

Brenlee Carrington Trepel  
Chairperson