

April 7, 2021

**Brief submitted by Alexandre Savoie-Perron, as an individual, to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs for its study on Bill C-15 (An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)**

Dear Committee Members:

I have been interested in Indigenous issues for many years, particularly Indigenous land rights in each traditional territory. As a geographer, I believe Bill C-15 should address some of the issues related to the planning, development and management of Indigenous traditional territories.

In my opinion, authority over all the components of the planning, management and development of each Indigenous nation's traditional territory must be granted to its respective nation council, including the areas of traditional knowledge, land use planning, urban planning, community planning, environmental protection, tourism, forestry, agriculture, hunting, fishing and natural resources. Thus, in the long run, each nation council would be responsible for matters affecting it instead of the various organizations currently involved (provincial, territorial and federal departments, public agencies, municipalities, supralocal municipal organizations, band councils, local and regional tourism associations, local and regional development organizations, etc.). Any rights to be conferred within a territory would be granted or rejected by the nation councils. Ideally, this governance model should be based on each nation's traditional governance and incorporate active participation by residents. Since some traditional territories overlap, the most stringent rules would apply when rights applications are submitted to the nation councils concerned. Once these changes are made to Bill C-15, amendments to several pieces of legislation at different levels of government would also be necessary.

In closing, I ask you to show political courage and initiate this change for the benefit of our society as a whole and to achieve true reconciliation.

Yours sincerely,

Alexandre Savoie-Perron

Geographer