

The Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

April 8, 2021

Dear Committee Members,

Hamilton Quakers request your assistance to expedite your Committee's review of Bill C-15, the Act to Implement the *United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP).

During the last parliament, Romeo Saganash's private member's Bill C-262 failed to be approved by the Government of Canada. After approval by a vote of 206 to 79 in the House of Commons, Mr. Saganash's bill was blocked by a very small minority of Senators in 2019. The legislation was re-introduced by the Government as Bill C-15, and it is now before your committee.

Now it faces failing, yet again, if an election is called before Bill C-15 gets full consideration and approval by the Commons and the Senate. The result of a failure would be a reinforcement of the historic colonial racism that the Government of Canada has disavowed as immoral and unacceptable.

We request the members of your Committee expedite review and passage of Bill C-15. It would mark a major step toward reconciliation with Canada's First Nations.

It is essential for all Members of Parliament act with respect and friendship toward Canada's First Nations.

Shirla Schellenberg, Clerk
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