
CANADA PUSHES FORWARD WITH UNDRIP

The following is an extract from Bill C-262, presented to the House of Commons in Canada, First Session, Forty-second Parliament, 64-65 Elizabeth II, 2015-2016. If the Bill is passed, it will become the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

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

PREAMBLE

Whereas the Parliament of Canada recognizes that the principles set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples should be enshrined in the laws of Canada;

Whereas, in the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, Canada and other states worldwide reaffirmed their solemn commitment to respect, promote and advance the rights of indigenous peoples and to uphold the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

Whereas, in its document entitled *Calls to Action*, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada is calling upon the federal government and other governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation;

Whereas indigenous peoples have suffered historic injustices as a result of, *inter alia*, their colonization and dispossession from their lands, territories and resources;

Whereas all doctrines, policies and practices based on or advocating superiority of peoples or individuals on the basis of national origin or racial, religious, ethnic or cultural differences are racist, scientifically false, legally invalid, morally condemnable and socially unjust;

Whereas, in regard to indigenous peoples, it is important for Canada to reject colonialism and engage in a contemporary approach based on good faith and on principles of justice, democracy, equality, non-discrimination, good governance and respect for human rights;

Whereas Canada is committed to taking appropriate measures — including legislative, policy and administrative measures — at the national and international level, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to follow up on its effectiveness;

Whereas protection of existing Aboriginal and treaty rights is an underlying principle and value of Canada's Constitution;

Whereas human rights, the rule of law and democracy are interlinked and mutually reinforcing and are underlying principles of that Constitution.

Argula
Biddy Dale
Acrylic on canvas
650mm x 735mm

