

Minister of Justice  
and Attorney General of Canada



Ministre de la Justice  
et procureur général du Canada

The Honourable / L'honorable David Lametti, P.C., Q.C., M.P. / c.p., c.r., député  
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H8

**FEB 22 2021**

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip  
President  
Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs  
401-312 Main Street  
Vancouver BC V6A 2T2

Dear Grand Chief Phillip and Co-signatories:

Thank you for your correspondence of December 17, 2020, sent on behalf of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, concerning Bill C-15, *An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. I also appreciated the opportunity to meet with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs Executive on February 3, 2021, and I look forward to joining you for your upcoming Chiefs Council on February 25, 2021.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank your organization for its advocacy for the full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and for having participated in the October and November 2020 engagement sessions through the First Nations Leadership Council. The participation of First Nations in British Columbia provided valuable insight into the development of Bill 41, the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. Bill C-15 is intended to complement provincial efforts to implement the UN Declaration, and we are hoping to continue to learn from your experience as we move forward with federal legislation.

I note the concerns you have shared, and assure you that we will give them careful consideration in the context of the parliamentary process. I also understand your interest in appearing before the parliamentary committee when the bill is at the committee stage; while it will be up to the committee to invite participants, I would encourage you to advise its members of your interest.

Bill C-15 would require the federal government to prepare an action plan to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration. This would provide ongoing opportunities for the consultation and cooperation of Indigenous peoples across Canada.

**Canada**

I look forward to the development of an action plan, which would give us more opportunities to collaborate in this important step along our collective journey of reconciliation. Together, our efforts to implement the UN Declaration will help build a brighter future and a better Canada for present and future generations.

Thank you again for writing.

Respectfully,



The Honourable David Lametti, P.C., Q.C., M.P.  
(he/him)  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada