



What We Heard: Summary of UNDRIP Sessions November 7th and 9th, 2020

On Saturday, November 7th a group of MN-S Citizens joined moderator Marilyn Poitras for the first of two virtual information and feedback sessions about the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights on Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) into Canadian law. These sessions were aimed at hearing from citizens as the MN-S continues to engage with the federal government in the introduction of legislation to implement UNDRIP. UNDRIP was presented, and four questions were posed to participants to encourage open discussion.

1. What words or ideas or indications would you look for in legislation from Canada to show that Métis are recognized, respected and included as a nation, and that this process is built on a nation-to-nation relationship?
2. In order to assess whether UNDRIP is being meaningfully implemented in Canada, what are the markers of success you would expect to see in your life and in the nation-to-nation relationship between MN-S and Canada?
3. How can Métis history, traditions and practices and laws passed on through oral and written teachings accompany the UNDRIP legislation?
4. What would you want to see from the Government of Canada and the MN-S to show that a nation-to-nation relationship is being maintained through UNDRIP and progress is being made on the implementation of UNDRIP law in Canada?
 - Who is in the best position to monitor the implementation of the legislation?
 - Who do you expect to report on this from Canada? From the MN-S?
 - What are the markers of change you would look for to monitor implementation and assess success that UNDRIP is being followed?
 - How will you know it is working?

The participants raised many important points, and specific themes emerged around the implementation of UNDRIP. These included using clear and concise communication; implementing accountability processes and a solid action plan; and ensuring there is capacity, funding and clearly defined roles and responsibilities. The group also emphasized the importance of public education about UNDRIP, the history behind it, and steps to successful realization. Participants stressed the need for considering what the future impacts of UNDRIP in Canadian law may have on the health and wellbeing of Indigenous peoples. Support and implementation of UNDRIP at all levels of government was cited as necessary for UNDRIP to make any real impact in the lives of MN-S Citizens.



On the evening of Monday, November 9th, a second group of MN-S Citizens met with Moderator Marilyn Poitras to discuss the implementation of UNDRIP into Canadian Law. Following the same format as the first session, the second group was presented with the four discussion questions.

The second group focused on many key areas. A theme that was repeated by many MN-S Citizens was that MN-S needs to take a lead role and work in partnership with the crown to implement UNDRIP. Participants suggested an independent third-party be established to oversee the implementation process. The group agreed with the previous group that public education is key for the successful implementation of UNDRIP, particularly directed towards children and youth. As well, a need for accountability and reporting, both by Canada and the MN-S, was emphasized. The participants emphasized that they did not want to see was a costly or burdensome process.

Overall, both groups felt that to be successful, the implementation of UNDRIP must take a distinctions-based approach and engage all First Nations, Métis and Inuit people, including women, children, differently abled, and seniors. During the implementation of UNDRIP Canada must ensure that the rights, culture and traditions of all Indigenous peoples are clearly identified, honoured and respected.

MN-S will provide the findings from these sessions to the federal government as part of continued efforts to ensure the voice of the Métis people is heard and reflected. MN-S will continue to inform Citizens of any new developments on the implementation of UNDRIP as they happen.

There is still time to provide input on this important initiative that will have a very real impact on our lives, our communities and our Métis Rights under S. 35 of the Canadian Constitution. If you would like to provide feedback, please email us at undrip@mns.work.