



May 17, 2007

Honourable Jim Prentice, MP., PC.
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Prentice:

On Tuesday, May 8th officials from the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and other Aboriginal organizations attended a meeting with federal officials from your department, the Justice Department and Foreign Affairs. The attendance of the AFN representative at the meeting was not intended to signify any intention on the part of the AFN to entertain or discuss Government of Canada proposals on changes to the United Nations Declaration. This point was specifically communicated by the AFN official prior to the meeting and at the meeting itself.

Based on information received at the meeting relating to Government of Canada activities and approaches in New York and in State capitals around the World, Canada continues to take positions on the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* that seriously undermine Indigenous peoples' human rights. There continues to be a wide range of substantive and procedural concerns in relation to Canada's strategies and positions. In the spirit of fostering a meaningful dialogue with Canada that is supportive of Indigenous peoples' human rights, I am attaching an Annex to this letter which details our concerns for your consideration and positive action.

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As had been communicated to you directly, First Nations in Canada are fully committed to supporting and advocating the adoption of the Declaration by the United Nations General Assembly in its current form. Furthermore, First Nations are willing to work with you and Minister McKay and your officials to find alternative ways to address Government of Canada concerns.

Sincerely,



Phil Fontaine
National Chief

cc. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Peter MacKay
Minister of Justice, Hon. Robert Nicholson