

WHAT IS UNDRIP?

The “United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People” defines the rights that Indigenous peoples around the world deserve. UNDRIP is not a law, but it tells the Government of Canada how to make sure its laws do not harm Indigenous peoples and do protect their rights.

UNDRIP has 46 articles that define Indigenous rights. They include the right to:

Be free and equal to everyone else.



Live in a safe and appropriate house.



Access services for your health.



Live a life that is safe and without violence.



Practice and protect your culture.



Stay in your community and on your land.



Have a spiritual connection to your traditional lands and waters.



Have your voice heard in decisions that may affect your rights.



WHAT DOES UNDRIP MEAN AND HOW DOES IT APPLY TO YOU?



UNDRIP is a tool that tells countries around the world what Indigenous rights are and how to respect them.

The UN Declaration Act tells the Government of Canada that they need to work with Indigenous peoples to:

- Make sure that laws in Canada respect the rights of Indigenous peoples.
- Make an Action Plan to meet the goals of UNDRIP.
- Give an update every year on the work they have done to change Canadian laws, and how they have worked to make the lives of Indigenous peoples better.

An important part of including UNDRIP in Canadian laws will be taking steps to end all violence, respect Inuit culture, and make sure Inuit culture is not lost or replaced with non-Inuit culture.



The UN Declaration Act aims to make changes so:

- Indigenous peoples live a life without racism, violence or discrimination.
- The Government of Canada respects Indigenous peoples, their culture and their rights; and tries to repair past and present harm.
- The Government of Canada keeps its promises to Indigenous peoples.



How Does It Apply to Me?

Many Canadian laws do not respect Indigenous rights and changing them will take time.

Each province and territory has their own sets of laws and they can choose if they include UNDRIP in their laws or not.



Right now, there are laws and practices in Canada that could be changed because they don't respect Indigenous rights according to UNDRIP. The hope is that one day there will be no more violence against Indigenous peoples, and Inuit culture will be celebrated and protected.



Beyond UNDRIP

While there is hope that UNDRIP will bring positive changes, it will not be able to undo all of the harm that Canada has done, and still does to Indigenous peoples. It will also take time to make these changes. It is important to remember that you don't need laws to tell you that you deserve to live a life that is safe, healing, and grounded in culture. Inuit are vibrant and sovereign.