Cree Nation of Nemaska
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May 31, 2021

Ms. Andrea Mugny
Procedural Clerk
Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples

By Email: appa@sen.parl.gc.ca

SUBJECT: BILL C-15

Dear Ms. Mugny:

The Cree Nation of Nemaska is a member community comprising the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee located in northern Quebec.

We have closely followed the progress of Bill C-262, and since its demise, we have been following the progress of the successor to that private member's bill, Bill C-15. Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum has provided testimony to both the House of Commons Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs, and to the Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples in strong support of Bill C-15.

We wholeheartedly concur with the position that Grand Chief Dr. Bosum has put forward in support of Bill C-15. He stated before your Committee:

"The fundamental issue in all of the debates around Bill C-15, UNDRIP and FPIC, is whether Canada will adopt an honourable approach to addressing the conditions of Indigenous peoples and whether that approach will be based on the full "inclusion" of Indigenous peoples in the political and economic life of Canada. It is about whether we are genuinely prepared to close the long and painful chapter of our collective history which has been based on, and perpetuated by, outdated colonial practices. The real question before you, Senators: Is Canada prepared now to recognize our historic exclusion as a relic of a colonial past and to move in the direction of inclusion, honour, good faith and respect? This is what Bill C-15 is about. Now is the opportunity for us all to be on the right side of history."

The Cree Nation of Nemaska urges all Senators to seize the moment and to act in a way that gives honour to the Crown and is respectful of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

Sincerely,

Chief Clarence Jolly

c.c.: Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum