

Implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Northwest Territories

What is the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?

Protecting Indigenous peoples rights

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) describes the fundamental human rights of Indigenous peoples around the world. It describes how governments should respect the human rights of Indigenous peoples. The Declaration recognizes Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination, culture, language, and traditional lands. In addition, the Declaration describes the minimum standards required to protect Indigenous peoples' rights and contribute to their survival, dignity, and well-being.

Made up of 46 articles that describe specific rights and actions that governments must take to protect the rights of Indigenous peoples, the UN Declaration is a valuable tool for developing strategies and taking action. Both the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls included calls for all levels of government to adopt the UN Declaration as the framework for reconciliation across Canada.

Why does the UN Declaration matter to the people of the Northwest Territories?

Here in the Northwest Territories, the UN Declaration is especially relevant because it acknowledges the rights of the Dene, Métis and Inuit peoples who have lived here for generations. It emphasizes their right to maintain and protect their unique cultures, traditions, and ways of life. It also recognizes the importance of Indigenous peoples' participation in decision-making that affect their lands and resources.

Implementing the UN Declaration will help to protect their rights and promote respect for their culture, traditions, and land rights. It will encourage governments and other entities to work in partnership with Indigenous peoples to ensure their rights are respected and their voices are heard in matters that affect them, including resource development, land management, and other policy decisions.

For more information about the UN Declaration, go to
www.eia.gov.nt.ca/un-declaration