

National Inuit Leader Welcomes Government of Canada's Endorsement on UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples

November 12, 2010 – Ottawa, Ontario – National Inuit leader Mary Simon, President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, welcomed the action today by the Government of Canada to endorse the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

"We look forward to working with the federal government to implement the Declaration in Canada and to promote it internationally," said Mary Simon. "Canadians need to understand that the purpose of instruments like the Declaration is to encourage governments to change policies and laws that are discriminatory or that fail to uphold and fulfill the human rights protections guaranteed to aboriginal peoples."

"This is a positive step in the further development of relationships between the Inuit of Canada and the Government of Canada. It is a remarkable achievement by the Aboriginal peoples of this country who worked for so many years to see this day arrive," said Mary Simon. "I am quite prepared to work with all Governments in Canada and indeed all Canadians to ensure that laws, policies, and programs for Aboriginal peoples whether designed by Governments or Aboriginal peoples themselves reflect the spirit and intent of this Declaration."

"I am hopeful that this announcement will result, over time, in all governments closing the gap in living standards between Inuit and other Canadians," said Mary Simon. "The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples provides a strong basis through which Indigenous peoples can assert our rights and advance our goals in our relations with States, corporations, the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and other institutions."

"Effective implementation of UNDRIP in Canada requires the Government of Canada to incorporate the principles of the Declaration into its current and future laws, policies and programs affecting Aboriginal peoples. Those

current laws, policies, and programs have left aboriginal peoples in Canada far behind other Canadians in relation to basic measurements of social and economic well-being”, said Mary Simon, President of ITK.

Ms. Simon concluded: “With the apology to residential school victims, and now this statement of endorsement, we hope to make further progress on the key outstanding issues that face both Inuit and the Government of Canada. Building a constructive partnership between Inuit and the Crown, in the context of our Constitutional and fiduciary relationship, remains an abiding goal for Inuit and a worthy goal for all Canadians - the world expects no less from us.”

Quelle/Source:

<http://www.itk.ca/media-release/national-inuit-leader-welcomes-government-canada%E2%80%99s-endorsement-un-declaration-rights-i>