



April 16, 2018

The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, P.C., M.P.  
Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
Room 451S, Centre Block  
OTTAWA, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) was pleased to see that the Government of Canada has established an independent Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE) to investigate allegations of human rights abuses linked to Canadian corporate activity abroad. We will watch with interest the activities and outcomes of CORE, and its effectiveness in promoting the full respect and protection of the rights of Indigenous peoples globally.

As you know, it is important for businesses, governments and the courts to understand and respect the rights of Indigenous peoples in Canada and globally. The AFN maintains that further action is required in order for Canada to meet its obligations to fully support and respect the rights of all Indigenous peoples. The next logical step would be legislation to enable Indigenous peoples from other countries to expeditiously enforce, in Canada, awards and compensation orders of foreign courts against any corporation conducting business in Canada. I attach AFN Resolution 67/2017 – *Support for the Indigenous peoples of Ecuador* passed by Chiefs-in-Assembly in December 2017 calling on the Government of Canada to develop such legislation.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) affirms the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples to their lands, territories and resources and the corresponding obligation of States to provide redress, and access to justice, for violations of those rights. Canada is part of several consensus resolutions of the UN General Assembly affirming the rights of Indigenous peoples as human rights. Canada has affirmed its unqualified support for the full implementation of the UN Declaration. Taking action to ensure the enforcement of foreign court orders against the assets of companies operating in Canada presents an opportunity for Canada to demonstrate international leadership while meeting its commitments and obligations to support the full implementation of the UN Declaration.

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I would be pleased to meet with you to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Perry Bellegarde". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Perry Bellegarde  
National Chief

Encl.

