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FEB 19 2019
Legislative Assembly
Members Office

February 15, 2019

Members of the NWT Legislative Assembly,
Government of the NWT,
Yellowknife, NWT X1A 2L9

Re: Ensuring that NWT Post-Devolution Legislation Recognizes UNDRIP

The Council of Canadians including the NWT Chapter is dedicated to achieving social and environmental justice and a healthy democracy. Our work is consistent with several United Nations declarations and covenants that the Government of Canada and the Government of the NWT have endorsed and committed to upholding. We have advocated strongly for the GNWT to embed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in post-devolution land and resource legislation. Our exchange on this matter can be found on our website <https://cocnwt.wordpress.com/2018/06/13/gnwt-must-honour-its-united-nations-endorsements/>.

Given the status of the various pieces of post-devolution legislation now is the time to truly make a meaningful commitment to UNDRIP and for the NWT Legislative Assembly to be the first jurisdiction in Canada to embed it in our post-devolution legislation. Embedding UNDRIP in our legislation would be consistent with the unanimous endorsement of the Declaration by the 16th NWT Legislative Assembly in 2008, when we were the first jurisdiction in Canada to embrace UNDRIP.

We have included handy little booklets about this United Nations Declaration that we hope you will share with your colleagues as you champion the inclusion of UNDRIP in our 'made in the north' land and resources legislation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lois Little,
Co-Chair, NWT Chapter