



IROQUOIS CAUCUS

Iroquois Caucus Address the *Anti-Terrorism Act* (Bill C-51)

(Six Nations – January 25, 2016) The Iroquois Caucus has serious concerns with the Federal government's *Anti-Terrorism Act* (Bill C-51).

Elected leaders from Akwesáhsne, Kahnawà:ke, Kanésatake, Oneida Nation of the Thames, Six Nations of the Grand River, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and Wahta Mohawks are unanimous in their concern and opposition to Bill C-51. Indigenous people cannot defend their land rights and interests without being labelled terrorists.

Bill C-51 is inconsistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) with respect to our right to self-determination, specifically Article 26 that outlines our right to protect and make decisions affecting our lands and resources, despite the fact that Canada has endorsed the Declaration on November 12, 2010. As a signatory to UNDRIP, Canada must address this matter accordingly.

Bill C-51 would put First Nations groups or individuals under surveillance or brand them as criminals or terrorists for carrying out legitimate forms of protest to protect our Treaty, aboriginal and inherent rights. Often, protest is the only form of action First Nations can take to oppose the imposition of laws and policies affecting our legal and constitutional rights.

Bill C-51 is inconsistent with the Canadian Constitution whereby First Nation rights are protected, and was passed without having met the Federal Government's legal obligation for consultation with First Nations whose rights will be affected.

The Iroquois Caucus is expecting that the proposed Liberal government's review of all legislation unilaterally imposed on Indigenous People by the previous government, as suggested by Prime Minister Trudeau at the Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly on December 8, 2015 in Gatineau, Quebec, will result in the repeal or amendment of Bill C-51.

As allies of the Crown by Treaties we understand the need to protect one's citizens, and the Iroquois are ready to support the Prime Minister in this endeavor by helping to protect our shared country from common enemies, that is, provided that the Crown does not target us as enemies through legislation such as Bill C-51 when we defend the spirit and intent of the Treaties and the promises they contain.

Furthermore, we the elected chiefs of the Iroquois of Canada invite the Prime Minister to discussions on how we will reset the relationship back to that same spirit and intent as allies.

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