

Delegation of France

the Indigenous affairs domestically and worldwide.

Currently on earth there are 370 million indigenous people spread out through 70 different countries, the delegation of France understands the importance of supporting these indigenous people as they navigate through a tough time in their history. This demographic has been consistently discriminated against and ostracized for the last 4 ½ centuries. The indigenous roots can be tracked back to the Frances colonization of Canada within the 16th century. At this time the French voyagers established New France and developed strong connections with the indigenous people through the fur trade. From this relationship the French were able to integrate into the indigenous culture of the Métis people and eventually inter-marry between aboriginal women and Frenchmen, which ultimately seals the bond in blood. The French seek to maintain these connections through their current relations in their colonies (New Caledonia, French Polynesia, and French Guiana). In New Caledonia alone there are 99 078 indigenous people who represent the Kanak people, ultimately making up 40.3% of the total population. Due to Frances strong demographic ties to this indigenous community, it should be expected that we assume a trail blazing position in developing revolutionary ideas regarding this dilemma. Therefore, the delegation of France is planning to take a stance that will ensure the improvement of the current state of the indigenous peoples **along with the environment around them, and the resources that they need to survive.**

Much of the current state of the indigenous people can be linked to their current engulfing state of poverty that seems to encompass nearly all indigenous communities in some

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shape or form. In Canada alone the poverty line covers 50 % of all indigenous children, a number that is nearly 35 % higher than poverty for non-indigenous peoples in the country. This wide spread poverty can be directly linked to lack of education and social services, indigenous economic systems and socio-political structures, along with imposing forced displacement, armed conflict, and the degradation of their traditional lands. All of these factors cause major ramifications to communities on their own, and are even further exaggerated when they appear all together. The standards of living drop drastically once these factors are put into play and areas of life such as housing, health, sanitation, communication, and education decline exponentially simply because there are no resources to support a lofty way of living. In many cases women are put in the most vulnerable and dangerous positions when it comes to armed forces, education, natural disaster, economics, and property, even though it is proven that these same women are integral to success in these areas. This stands as yet another area where education can be provided to suggest certain ways to better their ways of life. Therefore, it is integral to provide equivalent housing, health, sanitation, communication, and education resources to indigenous societies compared to those in the non-indigenous communities.

Health care Mental Health and Wellness

Health care is one of the sectors that struggles the most within the indigenous society simply because it requires a mass amount of resources, money, and experienced medical assistance to maintain general health in an area. The majority of the governments that have large indigenous populations within their country have decided to prioritize their needs behind those, who are non-indigenous. Canada stands as one of the best examples of a

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country that does not seem to be providing reasonable resources to their evidently large indigenous population. In terms of Tuberculosis alone, a disease that seems to thrive in impoverished areas there are 27.4 affected per 100 000 people, which is 35 times higher than the non-aboriginal population in Canada. These numbers are further exaggerated in Inuit Canada where 121 people out of 100 000 are affected, 150 times higher than the non-indigenous population. The Mental Affects linked to the indigenous people have also been well documented, In April 2016 Attawapiskat (located near James Bay) a state of emergency was declared after 11 people attempted to commit suicide on the night of April 9th.

Furthermore, since September 2015 101 people have attempted to commit suicide in a community of only 2000. There also tends to be major problems in the sector of infant mortality rate surrounding the indigenous community. In Latin America specifically the mortality rate of children stands 60% higher than that of non-indigenous people, most of deaths can be attributed to the malnutrition, sexually transmitted infections, and pregnancy complications. Yet another situation that reveal the pressing issue facing the indigenous people. The Delegation of France takes great pride in its own health care system as we allocate 11.6% of our GDP towards our healthcare system, and judging by a recent World Health Organization Report we have been deemed "the best overall health care". The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) was adopted by the General Assembly on the 13th of September 2007, and from this there were numerous guidelines and standards for the treatment of indigenous people in all facets of life. However, this declaration was not universally accepted by some of the nations with the greatest indigenous populations, and it was not seen as law but rather as a set of

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recommendations. Therefore, the delegation of France supported by the knowledge attained from our current health care situation would like to lead a movement of creating encompassing healthcare for all individuals within a nation. Ensuring that equal amounts of money are being distribute to all health centers within the country would be a great start. As well as installing a medical health program that provided temporary residencies and permeant doctorial jobs in these Indigenous areas. This program would provide all those who participated with reasonable economic incentives along with an experience in area and community extremely different than their own. By making this program mandatory during a doctor's time in office we can assure that a steady and consistent string of doctors will be working in these areas. A process of adapting these doctors into their new setting is also essential, simply because their ability to incorporate the traditional methods of the region into their treatment is crucial. Breaking down the barrier the between the supposed "evil white man" and the indigenous people is fundamental to providing the basis to improving their standards of living.

Climate Change Impacts and Protection of Resources

Within the vast majority of the countries that the Indigenous people are spread through, they can most frequently be found in extremely remote areas, where chances for natural disaster and severe weather are far higher. This can sometimes be linked to aggressive movement of the secondary nations coming in and claiming land that is not rightfully theirs. However, even in these remote locations the indigenous people as of lately have been violated as major government corporations encroach on their land and begin to extract their resources.

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In the case that your land passed over by these major corporations, chance are some form of storm or natural disaster will destroy the resources that they rely upon on a day to day basis.

Past actions have involved the same declaration used to address the health and wellness complications, The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), as well as the Expert Mechanism On the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) which was established out of the Human Rights Council. Four specific articles take from the (UNDRIP) outline the ideal ways of treating the indigenous territory.

Article 10:

1. *Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return.*

Article 26:

1. *Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources, which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.*
2. *Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.*
3. *States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.*

Article 29:

1. *Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programs for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.*

Article 30:

1. *Military activities shall not take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples, unless justified by a relevant public interest or otherwise freely agreed with or requested by the indigenous peoples concerned.*
2. *States shall undertake effective consultations with the indigenous peoples concerned, through appropriate procedures and in particular through their representative institutions, prior to using their lands or territories for military activities."*

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All of these articles depict the quintessential situation, however judging by the current situation on the majority of the reserves it can be concluded that these articles are not being followed to their full potential. However one example of these guidelines being followed can be found in the French colony of New Caledonia where the Kanak people have been granted the right to vote and move their assets and families from the reserve areas. Other UN lead organizations include the (OHCHR) Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, which is head consultant when it comes to indigenous rights. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), whose motivation is to find ways to moderate and limit the effects of Climate change on places that are especially vulnerable. The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), and The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) also play sizeable roles in the conservation of indigenous territory against natures elements and climate change. France as a nation has recognized Climate change to be a legitimate threat to the well-being of our earth with 86% of the population endorsing an agreement to limit carbon emissions. Along with statements from President Hollande who said this while at a UN climate conference, "France will do everything it can not only to enforce the [international] agreement—that is our responsibility—but to accelerate the movement" to dramatically cut carbon emissions. This therefore confirms that the not only the people of France but also the government is ready and capable to asses and react to the effects of climate change. However, it should be noted that the major problem for the indigenous people is the violation of their space by outside organizations attempting to profit on their resources. So in order to combat this, legitimate consequences need to be enforced, as well

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as transforming these corporate organization jobs into exclusively indigenous jobs that guarantee economic growth from within these communities.

Indigenous Peoples, Poverty, and Development.

Poverty and lack of development seem to be the two factors that can trace through each of the issues above, simply because lack of wealth and resources often lead to less than satisfactory living conditions. Both Australia and Canada provide relevant results regarding the Indigenous community simply because both nations maintain large populations of the ethnic group. In Australia alone there are 458 520 indigenous people which represent 2.4% of the total Australian population. And among these people it is believed that 19.3% live below the poverty line compared to the 12.4 % of non-indigenous Australians. Due to the increased poverty rates, 23% of Indigenous Australians live in overcrowded households in 2013, and for those who live extremely remote areas that proportion was increased to 53-63%. The average income with these Indigenous households also reflect this wide disparity between the indigenous and non-indigenous, 465\$ compared to 869\$ in 2012. The statistics from Canada only further exemplify the facts brought forward from the Australian data; 13.6% of food bank users across Canada are indigenous, despite comprising only 4% of the total population. Along with the major disparities found within the households, *homes without indoor plumbing 20% vs. 1%, homes without telephone service 53.4% vs. 5%*. These numbers are almost destined to continue if purposeful intervention is not made merely because the momentum of poverty is extremely hard to stop if those who are caught in it are not given a chance to succeed and escape from their current state. In hopes of stopping this rolling wave of poverty UN organizations like The (UNPFII),

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(UNDRIP) and the (IWGIA) have suggested many goals and target to reach within the near

future. Specifically from the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, a report was developed in

February 2008 that referenced the “Indicators of well-being, poverty and sustainability relevant

to indigenous peoples” and therefore proposed certain goals and tasks to relate to said topic.

Goal #1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

- **Target 1:** Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day
- **Indicators to show improvement:** Proportion of population below 1\$ a day (PPP), Poverty gap ratio (Incidence x depth of poverty).

However even with the instalment of these tasks very little feasible change has been seen. What is needed is a plan very similar to the 5-year plan that is currently in place in France that is meant to cut down the amount of people living under the poverty line and create reasonable goals that will be maintained throughout the future. This plan should involve a highly improved education system that will kick start the movement out of the zone of poverty, by giving Indigenous people the skills to compete within the job sector.

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