

Committee: UNGA

Position: Canada

Delegate: Phillip Lewicki



Topic 1: Indigenous Peoples, Healthcare, Mental Health, and Wellness

There are approximately 1.4 million aboriginal, or indigenous peoples currently living in Canada. Indigenous people all over the world experience a worse quality of life than their non-indigenous counterparts. Indigenous peoples are more likely to have health problems and contract diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. Indigenous peoples also suffer from higher rates of maternal and infant mortality, and are more likely to commit suicide than their indigenous counterparts. In Canada, Inuit youth are eleven times more likely to commit suicide than their non-indigenous counterparts, and in a small small indigenous community of 2000, 101 people have attempted suicide in the past year.

Canada supports the establishment of the UNDRIP as an initiative to guarantee various rights to indigenous peoples, and has formally endorsed the declaration. The Indian Health Transfer Policy was established in Canada with the goal of establishing better health care for aboriginal Canadians maintained by the aboriginal communities.

Geographic accessibility and remoteness of aboriginal communities limits indigenous peoples' accessibility to existing health care. Canada encourages other nations to work towards establishing better healthcare for indigenous peoples maintained by the indigenous communities. Although Canada supports immediate treatment of ill peoples, it encourages the establishment of health services in aboriginal communities, maintained by indigenous peoples.

Works Cited

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/130508/dq130508a-eng.htm?HPA>

<https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/canada-endorses-un-declaration-rights-indigenous-peoples>

United Nations General Assembly: Special Session on Indigenous Affairs Background Guide

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Topic 2: Indigenous Land Rights, Climate Change impacts and Environmental Protection of Resources

Many Indigenous peoples live in remote places and are usually more affected by the effects of climate change. These indigenous communities must quickly adapt to the rapidly changing environment. In northern Canada, many aboriginal tribes must deal with the drastic changes in their climate. They must cope with these issues without access to modern technology and without a place to go. Much of their life depends on their knowledge of their land, but with the changing climate, many are forced to change their way of life.

Canada has made treaties with aboriginal communities in the past and encourages others to do the same. It is vital that Indigenous peoples receive increased representation in discussing land rights and related affairs. Canada supports increased education for Indigenous peoples on the effects of climate change so that the committee can work with them to deal with the rapidly changing environment. Canada also strongly recommends that help be given to Indigenous communities to not allow the harvesting of resources such as oil in their land.

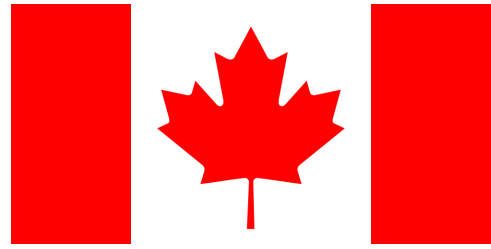
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United Nations General Assembly: Special Session on Indigenous Affairs Background Guide

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Topic 3: Indigenous Peoples, Poverty, and Development

Indigenous peoples are some of the poorest people in the world. In Canada, half of Canadian First Nations youth live below the poverty line. Canadian indigenous peoples are among the highest food bank users in Canada, while many are geographically unable to access the food bank. Aboriginal communities suffer from many food-related illnesses which affect all aspects of their life. Indigenous communities are also without clean and functional housing, and suffer from overcrowding.

Lack of funding for Indigenous peoples' education in Canada is of major concern. Schools are provided by the federal government instead of the provinces, which results in far less funding for First Nations. The INAC (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada) receives insufficient funding and is not able to properly fund First Nations students.

Canada encourages other nations to join Canada in increasing funding for Indigenous education, as well as food and housing. With healthy food and clean housing, aboriginal communities can improve their performance in school. With a drastic increase in funding of Indigenous communities, people will be able to rise above the poverty line and maintain a better standard of living with investment from the government and other legislative organizations.

Works Cited

United Nations General Assembly: Special Session on Indigenous Affairs Background Guide