



TRUTH BEFORE RECONCILIATION EDUCATION & ADVOCACY NETWORK
Russell Diabo, Spokesperson
Website: www.russdiabo.com
E-Mail: russdiabo@rogers.com

Truth Before Reconciliation Network Response to the
Federal 2026 UNDRIPA/CANDRIP (White Paper 2.0) Annual Progress Report
on Termination of First Nations Treaty & Inherent Rights
September 1, 2026

WHAT’S GOING ON?

The 1969 White Paper on Indian Policy Objectives Continue

- ✓ Eliminate Indian Status.
- ✓ Dissolve the Department of Indian Affairs within 5 years.
- ✓ Abolish the **Indian Act** & remove Constitutional Reference to Indian & Indian Reserve Lands
- ✓ Convert reserve land to private property that can be sold by the band or its members.
- ✓ Transfer responsibility for Indian Affairs from the federal government to the province and integrate these services into those provided to other Canadian citizens.
- ✓ Provide transitional funding for economic development.
- ✓ Appoint a commissioner to end outstanding land claims and gradually terminate existing Treaties.

For over 50 years, the federal government has been trying to:

- End “*Indian*” status
- Turn First Nations into small local governments
- Push us into the same system as towns and municipalities
- Move away from Treaties and Nation-to-Nation relationships
- This plan started in 1969. It never stopped. Today they call it “*Reconciliation*.”

What Is White Paper 2.0?

- End the legal category of “*Indian*.”
- Convert Bands into municipal-style “*Indigenous Governing Bodies*.”
- Replace Treaty Nationhood with delegated authority.
- Shift federal Treaty & fiduciary (Trust) obligations to provincial/municipal-style arrangements.
- Reduce/Off-Load federal spending through “*own-source revenue*” and taxation.

This is Termination by Municipalization.

How Municipalization Works

1. Change registration rules (C-31, S-2, second-generation cut-off).
2. Transition/Rebrand Bands as “*Indigenous Governing Bodies*” with natural person powers.
3. Wrap in UNDRIPA/CANDRIP language to legitimize federal definitions.
4. Move “*beyond the Indian Act*” without Land Back or Treaty enforcement.

What True Recognition Would Look Like

- Nation-to-Nation relationships
- Recognition of Sovereignty and Treaty fiduciary (Trust) obligations
- Restoration of lands, territories & resources taken without **FPIC**, or restitution
- No provincial veto
- No delegation model
- Fiscal arrangements based on rights and needs
- Respect for First Nations legal orders

Anything less is not self-determination!

Core Message About Federal Progress Report on Termination of Treaty & Inherent Rights

The 2026 UNDRIPA/CANDRIP Annual Progress Report on Termination of Treaty & Inherent Rights presents administrative activity, not **rights implementation**. It highlights federal processes—committees, consultations, pilot projects—while avoiding the structural changes required to align Canadian law and policy with **UNDRIP**, **Treaty obligations**, and **Inherent First Nations jurisdiction** and **First Nations international right of self-determination**.

This is not a rights-based progress report. It is a federal **White Paper 2.0** (Termination of Collective Rights) compliance document.

Key Concerns of the Truth Before Reconciliation Network

1. Progress is defined as federal activity, not rights fulfillment

The **UNDRIPA/CANDRIP** Termination report celebrates:

- advisory committees
- coordination tables
- service-delivery pilots

But does **not** address:

- land restitution
- jurisdiction transfer
- **FPIC** in resource development
- reform of the **Indian Act** on terms and conditions set by First Nation communities NOT federal policy
- fiscal autonomy or revenue-sharing

Outcome: The Crown measures success by its own actions, not by changes in First Nations rights, power, or land.

2. Slow progress is blamed on external circumstances

The federal Minister of Justice acknowledges First Nations frustration with the slow pace but attributes delays to “*challenges the country faced.*”

Reality: The primary barrier is federal reluctance to change laws, policies, and fiscal structures that maintain Crown control.

3. “Consistency of laws” section avoids identifying actual conflicts

The report highlights:

- Métis Self-Government Recognition Act (Bill C-21)
- Commissioner for Modern Treaty Implementation Act (Bill C-10)

Neither of these address:

- federal laws that violate **UNDRIP, Treaties and First Nations Inherent rights**.
- required amendments to federal laws violating First Nations Treaty and Inherent Rights and Title.
- timelines for legal overhaul of federal laws in conflict with **UNDRIP**.

Outcome: No meaningful plan to align federal legislation with **UNDRIP**.

4. Free, Prior, Informed, Consent is replaced with consultation

The report repeatedly cites “*consultation and cooperation*” with 70+ Indigenous partners (collaborators).

But consultation ≠ consent. FPIC requires:

- the right to say **no**
- First Nations decision-making authority
- Authentically shared or First Nations-led governance

The report provides **no evidence** of **FPIC** in federal decision-making.

5. Federal recognition (Termination) frameworks reinforce Crown control

Legislation highlighted in the report continues:

- federal gatekeeping over First Nations governance
- federal unilateral definitions of who is recognized
- federal oversight and control of First Nations institutions

Outcome: These frameworks domesticate First Nations governance rather than recognize the international right of self-determination of First Nations.

6. First Nations concerns are acknowledged but not acted upon

The report notes concerns about:

- slow progress
- lack of coordination
- exclusion of women, youth, 2SLGBTQI+ people, and Elders
- failure to fulfill Treaty obligations

But offers **no commitments**, timelines, or accountability mechanisms.

Bottom Line

The **2026 UNDRIPA/CANDRIP report** protects federal authority while presenting incremental administrative actions as meaningful progress. It does not demonstrate:

- legal transformation
- jurisdictional recognition
- land restitution
- **FPIC**-based governance

From a First Nations rights-advocacy perspective, the report is **misleading, insufficient, selective, and structurally conservative**.

Advocacy Priorities Moving Forward

- We demand that Canada must, recognize our First Nations international right of self-determination
- We demand **full legal review** of federal laws for **UNDRIP** compliance.
- We assert **Treaty-based and Inherent jurisdiction** as the foundation for implementation of **UNDRIP**.
- We demand **FPIC standards** in all federal decision-making.
- We insist on **land-back mechanisms** and Aboriginal Title/Treaty territorial governance.
- We demand authentic **First Nations-led implementation**, not federal oversight.

This is why our Truth Before Reconciliation Network is calling for a National Day of Action on October 26, 2026, to coincide with the scheduled First Nations-First Ministers’ Meeting in Ottawa. We need to send a message to Canada’s First Ministers, and our own First Nation Leaders, that we want fundamental changes to the First Nations-Crown Relationship, not symbolic performative actions.

Truth Before Reconciliation:

*The **Truth Before Reconciliation Education and Advocacy Network** is a core team of people who are working to get Crown governments and Canadian society to address “**Truth Before Reconciliation**”, because we believe the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission** and its **Calls to Action** are not sufficient to address the colonization that First Nations have historically experienced and which continues today, particularly under the colonial policies and legislation passed under the **Constitution Act 1867** and the unilaterally imposed federal policies and legislation defining **Inherent & Treaty Rights** in section 35 of the **Constitution Act 1982**.*