Indigenous Friends Association

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

Founded in 2015, the Indigenous Friends Association (IFA) is a non-profit, Indigenous-led organization that ignites the Spirit of Indigenous communities to create, engage and renovate digital technologies through ethical and communal values. The IFA was born out of the need for Indigenous youth in urban and post-secondary settings to access safer digital spaces to connect with fellow Indigenous peers and rekindle their relationship with traditional Indigenous values. Beginning with the Indigenous Friends Platform (IFP), the IFA has since expanded its project scope to include initiatives incorporating technological skills training and a digital literacy curriculum grounded in traditional Indigenous values and knowledge systems. Following the preamble of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples Act and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada's 94 Calls to Action, the work at the IFA is further guided and reinforced by the pressing need to address the dark legacy of colonial policies upon Indigenous Peoples. The IFA aims to provide the necessary tools for Indigenous Peoples and allies to build partnerships and promote digital projects that place Indigenous understandings at their core.

The IFA is currently deploying four main programs:

1) **INDIGItal Program:** This program is a digital literacy course across Canada (online and in-person) where Indigenous participants learn coding fundamentals such as HTML, CSS, JavaScript, digital design, and UX design, among others, to create their own digital projects**.**
2) **IndigiTECH Program**: This program aims to create systemic change in support of Indigenous communities and individuals entering the tech labour market. The program delivers equitable, ongoing, culturally informed support systems for sustainable career development - including training, internships, and career support services.
3) **IndigiFriends Platform (IFP):** The IFP is a mobile and web-based app for Indigenous Peoples that provides access to Indigenous resources, Traditional Knowledge Keepers, peer support, and academic resources.
4) **Research Program:** The Research Program aims to address the barriers experienced by Indigenous youth entering and transitioning towards sustainable career pathways in tech and innovation. The IFA Research Program is committed to Indigenous research and reconciliation through several agency-led initiatives and activities, as well as through activities organized in collaboration with Canada's federal and provincial research funding agencies. This UNDRIP consultation is led by this Department.

Our mission is to inspire and support the imagination of Indigenous communities to participate in a digital future while preserving their self-determination. The IFA has a wealth of experience in co-creating strengths-based, culturally responsive programming rooted in Indigenous pedagogies including experiential learning, repetition, storytelling, and reciprocity. The IFA's applications and youth programs are guided by Digital Tipi Protocols and Indigenous philosophies that promote collaboration between Indigenous youth, Elders and Knowledge Keepers. The IFA is led by majority First Nations and Métis board members who aim to follow

and enact the 7 Grandparent Teachings throughout the design, implementation and sharing of digital technologies created by, for and with Indigenous communities.

PURPOSE

The TRC's Actions 43-44 call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration) as the framework for reconciliation. The implementation of the Declaration, through the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (the Act), requires working in partnership with Indigenous Peoples to develop an action-oriented framework that enables Indigenous Peoples to enjoy the minimum standards for the survival, dignity, and well-being of their respective communities.

As part of Canada's response to the Declaration, the IFA has partnered with Justice Canada to develop an Action Plan that addresses environmental injustices, racism and discrimination in the media and Indigenous rights towards data sovereignty. Research findings inform the IFA's proposal of amendments of related federal laws to better reflect the Declaration.

The 4 Main Objectives of the IFA Action Plan are as follows:

1. Creation of space for the understanding of the Act within local Indigenous communities;
2. Develop a strategy of implementation of applicable tenets within the Act that relate to the IFA's mission and objectives;
3. Compile stories and information about the future of Indigenous youth in the tech industry, including their needs, priorities, and interests; and
4. Develop and share findings and recommendations with Justice Canada, Canada's federal legislative decision makers, as well as the communities across Canada that this Plan aims to serve.

The focus of the IFA Action Plan is on the implementation of the Declaration's Articles 11, 13, 16 and 31 which directly inform Canadian federal legislation around digital technologies including online safety, privacy, intellectual property, and data sovereignty. The IFA Action Plan objectives and key priorities are further supplemented by other Articles applicable in the Declaration.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY & DATA GATHERING

Before the IFA can define some possible actions in this Plan, it is crucial to frame ethical principles that guide the research actions due to the historical and colonial relationship between research and Indigenous peoples. Based on the holistic character of Indigenous ways of knowing, the IFA searched for ethical frameworks that reflect Indigenous research and digital technology. In the context of digital spaces, the IFA has used *The Five R Principles* to conduct research in online learning among Indigenous youth: Respect, Relevance, Reciprocity, Responsibility, and Relationships. These principles were developed in the context of the First Nations Schools

Principals' Course (FNSPC) in Toronto and have assisted in transforming the strengths of Indigenous youth in digital spaces. As such, these five principles were followed throughout the research process.

Regarding the methodology, the IFA conducted sharing circles with existing IFA Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth and student-led university groups. Engagement with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, community leaders and SMEs were carried out in 13 semi-structured 1-on-1 interviews. Online survey questionnaires composed of open and closed ended questions were also emailed to members of the IFA community. The compilation of stories, surveys, and information about the future of Indigenous youth in the tech industry, including their needs, priorities, and interests, was analyzed in combination with our identified network of stakeholders to drive ongoing conversations around human rights and the rights of Indigenous peoples in the context of digital technologies. The Research Team applied the Grounded Theory approach to guide qualitative data analysis as it offered an effective method to respect the perspectives of Traditional Knowledges. Our team sought to analyze the IFA's own approach to provide recommendations from our lived experience as members of an Indigenous-led organization working with, and catering to Indigenous youth who carry their own stories, customs, beliefs, and interpretations.

THE IFA ACTION PLAN

Theme 1: Right to Revitalize Culture through Digital Technology Fostering Self-Determination for Environmental and Social Well-Being

Proposed Measure

Indigenous Peoples must be recognized as rights holders to support Canada's Climate Action Plan through the lens of Indigenous Knowledge as a precursor to climate justice and preservation of biodiversity. Federal, provincial, and municipal governments should acknowledge and learn the wisdom of the Indigenous Peoples and their cultures to design and construct sustainable mechanisms towards ecological revival as a means to combat environmental racism. Through the full ownership and possession of lands, territories, and resources, Indigenous Peoples have the right to protect and conserve the environment for posterity of their communities. This right involves determining communities' distinctive strategies, mechanisms, and technologies to maintain productive capacities of their resources and biodiversity in their natural environment.

Rationale

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change highlights that Indigenous Peoples, having upheld their role as environmental stewards for over 80% of the planet's biodiversity, possess Traditional Knowledges of sustainable development that have been amassed through generations. Engaging Indigenous communities and organizations, including the youth, is necessary to address and respond to this urgent need for climate action. We delve into this

experiential earth-rejuvenating framework by, for, and with Indigenous communities as the Declaration braids within Canada's domestic laws.

Indigenous communities are disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis. Indigenous Peoples have, since time immemorial, and in accordance with their legal orders, the authority, responsibility, and capacity to steward their lands and waters to safeguard the future of healthy ecosystems and communities. The IFA advocates for ethical technology use as a medium to support and amplify Indigenous Knowledges through cultural revitalization and practice. We encourage the use of digital geographical platforms as tools to share Indigenous Nations' effective measures and mechanisms to save Mother Earth.

Key Priorities and Outcomes

1) Indigenous Worldview in Climate Change Adaptation

- Indigenous Peoples in their respective communities revitalize culture through traditional practices adaptive to climate change and are mindful of biodiversity.
- The federal government must align with, and be supportive of, Indigenous Peoples' initiatives on climate justice, community-distinct approaches and action planning, while being aware of the environmental impact of digital infrastructure in Indigenous communities.
- Governments must inculcate a community-driven approach in mitigating climate change through an adaptation framework that centers Indigenous Knowledges with the ethical use of technology by engaging the Elders, Traditional Knowledge Keepers, and respective community leaders.
- Substantial government funding must be committed for infrastructure, research, and community development. Feasible and attainable government guidelines must prioritize tech innovators who advocate for combatting and mitigating climate change within adaptation frameworks.
- Governments must recognize and act upon calls to action addressing the roles of Indigenous Peoples and their Traditional Knowledges when assessing, monitoring, and sharing data and information that communities deem harmful to their health and wellbeing.

2) Capacity-building to Counter Environmental Racism

- Indigenous Peoples have full stewardship over the data generated within their communities and territories for climate action, cultural revitalization, and research.
- Cross-sectional studies and knowledge sharing among various collaboratives on the non-universality of Indigenous Knowledge systems of environmental protection to encourage Canadian communities to understand the nature and use of which has been transmitted from generation to generation by Indigenous Peoples at the local level.
- Digitally stored and documented knowledge of programs and activities, which include oral narratives that recounts human histories, cosmological observations, specialized understandings of local ecosystems, and the manufacturing of specialized tools and technologies.

- Canadian society understands resource extraction among Indigenous lands as not solely an environmental issue, but that of which reflects the effects of colonialism.
- Storage and knowledge sharing using simulative and interactive technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Virtual and Augmented Reality (XR), and other Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to deliver geovisualization, spatial statistics and optimization of data on Indigenous lands and territories to combat climate change and manage resources in a way that will benefit current and future generations.
- Use of digital data to target the implementation of strategic plans that foster climate-resilient infrastructure.
- Electronic waste (e-waste) management and the recognition of its environmental impact, especially upon Indigenous lands and territories.
- The creation of federal minimum standards and policies for all provinces on e-waste management and disposal.
- Expansion of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) to have consultations with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities.
- Acknowledgement of e-waste and its relation to land trauma and land-based violence within Canada and transboundary states.

3) Enabling Collaboratives as Climate Justice Co-conspirators

- Indigenous Peoples as rights holders and not just stakeholders, where Elders, Knowledge Keepers and community leaders will co-lead decision-making on the local, municipal, and regional framework and action plan implementations affecting environment and biodiversity.
- Work toward a government-partnered, amalgamated Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector involvement composed of SMEs and key players from both public and private sectors, with the central vision of climate justice and resilience.
- Indigenous-led tech-focused organizations at the forefront in active engagements with various Indigenous communities to knowledge-share modern tools and devices which can assist communities in assessing the issue of climate change and their risk-preparedness mechanisms.
- Strengthened governmental partnerships among Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and Indigenous leaders in the training and knowledge sharing of the system- alignment and framework with technological innovations through mindful engagements and consultations.
- Elders, Traditional Knowledge Keepers, community members, and leaders actively engage and connect with their youth members on their environmental protection mechanisms as role models.
- First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities will have strong global cooperation with other international groups and organizations that advocate for access to financial and technical assistance to counter the hegemonic geographical visualization.
- Provincial and federal governments continue to support partnerships with Indigenous-led organizations and institutions, to facilitate the design, development and use of community-specific Indigenous sciences and innovations within the government's climate change resilience roadmap.

- Increase collaborative efforts between corporations and tech community groups, environmental policy shapers, and Indigenous communities to jointly work with the federal government to analyze environmental concerns and possible initiatives concerning racialized minorities.
- Development of effective mechanisms to address violations of environmental violations committed on Indigenous lands, territories, and sacred sites, with increased penalties for transgressions committed without the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples or in accordance with applicable section 35 jurisprudence.

Actions

1.1 Meaningful engagements and knowledge sharing between First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities to co-share their distinct practices for environmental protection and preservation.

1.2 Government to create a transparent process for engagement with Indigenous communities for the purpose of participating in the climate adaptation framework and to support Indigenous Peoples self-determination.

1.3 Indigenous perceptions of their geographical space are formalized and represented through resource and funding support via Indigenous language programs initiated by the communities involved.

1.4 Consultations leading to data and information sharing should not be taken without free, prior, and informed consent from concerned communities, and the latter will have full ownership and decision-making on the core data as well as extrapolated data outcome(s).

1.5 Devolution of power and authority from the provincial government to the municipal level to ensure that meaningful consultations come from the grassroots with shared fiscal and accountability outcomes on the risk-reduction road mapping and designing through various engagements, meaningful conversations, and knowledge sharing.

1.6 Provincial governments to have a unifying database which enlists the available resources, with organizations, agencies, and institutions clustered as to specific environmental focus in the plethora of climate action and climate justice initiatives. This database should be updated as part of the accountability piece, as institutions involved being recipients of government grants are encouraged to report essential updates to the government for public information.

1.7 Digitalization of data and information in the framework of climate change mitigation and adaptiveness through technology use partnered with Indigenous innovators, researchers, community leaders, and policymakers.

1.8 Create an environment-focused Task Force from the provincial government with members as *ex officio* representatives of a technical working group from the municipal level where each group will have equal representation of Elders, Traditional Knowledge Keepers, and Indigenous

environmental scholars to design and framework a climate-adaptive infrastructure infused with technological tools and usage which highlight the resilience of Indigenous communities.

1.9 Tangible and adequate federal support through funding, with feasible, reasonable, and apolitical technical requirements for environment protection and conservation groups, including requirements to collaborate with Indigenous-led institutions and tech sectors to improve sustainability and combat climate change on the global stage.

1.10 The federal government to support the continuous development of Indigenous-led climate action planning through software development and predictions modeling that empowers and supports self-determined decisions on the future of climate change in respective Indigenous communities.

1.11 Support to carry out conversations and consultations among Indigenous communities to determine and share their distinctive strategies, mechanisms, and technologies to conserve and strengthen their role as custodians of natural resources and biodiversity upon their lands and territories.

Consistency of Laws

Bill S-5: Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999

Bill C-28, re-introduced as Bill S-5, which proposes a modern amendment to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (*CEPA*) to strengthen environmental protection for a healthier Canada, offers a comprehensive framework that recognizes a right to a healthy environment. We support amendments to *CEPA* which will operationalize the right to a healthy environment for all Canadians. However, the Act can further support Indigenous led environmental initiatives by centralizing Indigenous ways of knowing and their unique perspectives on climate resilient strategies and stewardship roles, while fully recognizing their right to self-determine the development and implementation of such mechanisms on Indigenous lands and territories.

We support that federal legislation should honour Indigenous Peoples as rights holders who can conserve and protect the environment and maintain the autonomy of their lands and territories. Revisions to the *CEPA* should include mechanisms that require government engagements under an honored Nation-to-Nation approach through various means, including the use of modern technology platforms and devices. Throughout these engagements, Indigenous communities must be permitted to exercise their right to free, prior, and informed consent over administrative decisions and legislative actions which may be taken upon their affected lands and resources.

On E-Waste Management

The IFA suggests that an amendment must be made to the *CEPA*, which builds upon the federal government's authority to enact regulations governing the import and export of hazardous waste, e-waste, and other hazardous recyclable materials. While provincial governments regulate

interprovincial movements of e-waste, the IFA calls upon the federal government to strengthen e-waste management mechanisms and enact higher penalties and liabilities for transgressions committed upon Indigenous lands and sacred sites. We encourage federal legislation to prioritize e-waste management, notwithstanding provincial regulations, through a comprehensive review of the export and import of Hazardous Recyclable Material Regulations, to improve transboundary movements of electronic wastes and to address the shared responsibility of e-waste among domestic and international communities.

Bill C-226: An Act Respecting the Development of a National Strategy to Assess, Prevent and Address Environmental Racism and to Advance Environmental Justice

Bill C-226 must highlight various Indigenous Knowledges and determinants of health unique to Indigenous Peoples to sufficiently engage with environmental injustices and discrimination as they apply to Indigenous communities. Marginalized community groups, including Indigenous Peoples must be included, from the outset, in the policy-making process proposed by Bill C-226. We encourage and support the requirement under Bill C-226 for the Minister of the Environment & Climate Change to adopt a strategy to examine the link between race, socioeconomic and environmental risk and propose that this include an assessment of the digital mechanisms, tools and innovations that can be used to collect information relating to environmental risks that determine negative health outcomes, specifically as they relate to Indigenous reserve lands and rural communities.

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

A comprehensive and authoritative mandate for the Ministry of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) to support the government's commitment to advancing reconciliation efforts with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities and is a necessary first step for the Ministry. This mandate could include a requirement to develop a mechanism for the recording of environmental and generational transgressions on Indigenous lands and territories to assist with establishing a pattern of predatory environmental behaviours which might support an allegation of environmental racism.

The Impact Assessment Act

The Impact Assessment Act aims to *"ensure respect for the rights of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, in the course of impact assessments and decision-making under* [the Act].*"* We support the government in strengthening its relationship with Indigenous governing bodies and groups while the latter exercise their autonomy in conducting parallel environmental reviews and assessments of projects and developments which are subject to the Act. There should be ample representations of Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers to meaningfully satisfy considerations required by section 18 of the Act to meaningfully assess issues in relation to a project which may have a social, health, or economic impact upon Indigenous Peoples in Canada. The IFA supports a review of this legislation which will further align the Act with the Declaration and work to prevent environmental racism.

Themes & Articles

Cultural, Religious, and Linguistic Rights
  ● Art 11 - Cultural traditions, customs, and redress

Participation in Decision-making and Indigenous institutions
  ● Art 5 - Maintaining and strengthening distinct political, legal, economic, social, and cultural institutions
  ● Art 18 - Participation in decision-making
  ● Art 19 - Consultation and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)
  ● Art 34 - Institutional structures, Judicial Systems, or Customs

Lands, Territories, and Resources
  ● Art 26 - Ownership, use, development, and legal recognition

Environment
  ● Art 29 - Conservation and environmental protection

Civil and Political Rights
  ● Art 35 and 36 - Responsibilities among Communities across Borders

Theme 2: Anti-Discrimination, Education, and Equal Opportunity in Telecommunications & Digital Media

Proposed Measure

The intention of the proposed measure is to better support Indigenous Peoples rights related to equality and non-discrimination, culture, language, and identity as recognized in the Declaration. The federal government of Canada must take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous Peoples of Canada to combat prejudice, eliminate discrimination and promote acceptance, understanding and good relations among Indigenous Peoples and all other segments of society, specifically within the digital context. This right involves the centralization of Indigenous ways of knowing and the self-determination of resources to make the Indigenous Peoples presence and diversity of cultures known across Canada's telecommunications and media landscape.

As recognized in Article 16.2 of the Declaration, Indigenous Peoples have the right to establish their own media in their languages and access all forms of non-Indigenous media platforms without discrimination. This right involves the government's regulatory framework that shapes the discourse surrounding harmful misrepresentations of Indigenous Peoples that is brought into the public sphere. The government must work toward fulfilling its obligation to facilitate the protection of Indigenous languages by supporting Indigenous people's broadcasting and communications endeavors. The federal government should promote an Indigenous language policy where preservation and revitalization of Indigenous languages are actively installed in all facets of telecommunications in both public and private broadcasting arenas.

Rationale

Film, television, and social media influence public opinions and introduce new ideas and worldviews. The majority of media representation of Indigenous Peoples heavily emphasizes negative reports regarding the symptoms of public issues rather than the root cause. The ways in which Indigenous issues are framed in the media directly ties to the TRC's Call to Actions 84-86, wherein greater funding to both private and non-profit broadcasting networks, as well as education programs are outlined as avenues to draw acceptance and understanding of Indigenous viewpoints, history, language, and culture. Journalists and broadcasting organizations including the Canadian Radio-television and Communications Commission (CRTC), have a historic opportunity to set the bedrock of truth- telling from which reconciliation and the full realization of Canadian values can grow. To better represent Indigenous peoples in the media, journalists, producers, and Canadians alike must work collaboratively to build a cultural infrastructure from which reconciliation can take shape and commit to the wise practice approach to developing educational and leadership competencies within Canada's media system at large.

Using the Declaration's Articles 15 & 16 as the framework towards sovereign action, Indigenous Peoples must be granted control of their personal narratives in the media. The media and technology industry are an arena where Indigenous ways of knowing must be honored, respected, and celebrated. We call upon the federal government to use technology as a tool to build an anti-racism narrative, launch education and awareness initiatives on discrimination and properly represent Indigenous Peoples teachings, Traditional Knowledges, history, and traditions. Further, broadcasting and media plays a vital role in celebrating, preserving, and revitalizing Indigenous languages. Language is a vital pillar to the establishment of truth and the achievement of reconciliation. Without language revitalization, reconciliation efforts will topple. Indigenous Peoples need to be more visible in Canada through the modernization of anti-discrimination, education and Diversity and Inclusion policies and practices enacted by the CRTC. This theme denotes the importance of bringing more public awareness to the diverse Indigenous perspectives and voices in both mainstream news organizations as well as Indigenous networks, to create a more inclusive historical context and coverage of the current realities of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

Key Priorities and Outcomes

1) **Increased Visibility & Anti-Discrimination Efforts in Mainstream and Alternative Media Platforms**

   ● Acknowledgement of the systematic destruction of Indigenous languages and cultures in Canada; the truth surrounding colonialism and the lived experience of Indigenous Nations must be recognized in media and broadcasting outlets.
   ● Indigenous communities' need for self-determination involving the preservation and strengthening of their language and culture through media is recognized and implemented within existing regulatory frameworks that target anti-discrimination in broadcasting organizations and aired content.

- Indigenous Peoples' stories, music, language, art, and culture must be seen and heard across digital media and broadcasting outlets.
- Eradication of Indigenous-specific racism, including perpetuated stereotypes, unfavorable biases as well as problematic language surrounding political representation and culture.
- Indigenous Peoples must be properly represented in the media (news, radio broadcasts, television series and films) that tells Indigenous stories in a way that is factual, dignified, and ethical.
- Greater media representation of positive narratives surrounding Indigenous stories of both personal and community related achievements and significant contributions to the media, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM), environment, politics, governance, social activism and beyond.
- Indigenous Peoples' identities, worldviews, personal narratives, and stories are accurately represented in the news coverage of Indigenous issues through cross-collaboration with representatives including Elders, youth, and community leaders to whom are impacted.

2) Self Determination in the Context of Language Revitalization, Culture and Education

- Cultural literacy, including the history of Indigenous Peoples on Turtle Island, becomes a fundamental pillar within federally funded online education programs for Newcomers to Canada. This aims to counter lateral violence and encourage empathy and connectedness towards a shared history of Canada.
- A decolonialized approach to knowledge teachings and ways of knowing is centralized in the creation of Indigenous-led digital technologies, tools and services that support community-driven language revitalization programs and curriculum development.
- Recognition that Indigenous cultural practices belong to the community and not to individuals. Publicly funded broadcasting organizations embrace the responsibility that culturally diverse artistic programming must include collaboration with Indigenous artists, Elders and Cultural Keepers to avoid cultural appropriation in creative processes, content development and digital programming.

3) Access, Representation & Capacity Building in Digital Media & Tech Industries

- Indigenous Peoples have equitable access to employment opportunities and leadership positions within CRTC organizations.
- Greater representation of Indigenous Peoples in mainstream media, including radio, TV, film, and technical roles.
- Increased employment of Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQ+ communities in digital media, radio, production, and tech industries.
- Indigenous cultural competency training is a mandatory component of post-secondary radio, media, journalism, and computer programming curriculum.
- Publicly funded broadcasting stations actively seek partnerships with Indigenous privately owned stations in an effort to promote and strengthen the collective voice of Indigenous content creators and artists.
- All Indigenous communities, in particular, reserve communities and those in rural/remote areas of Canada have equitable access to reliable Internet.

Actions

2.1 Implement a broadcasting policy that ensures a minimum amount of affirmative content relating to Indigenous Peoples' achievements, innovations, and positive impact to be aired on publicly funded stations as well as a minimum percentage of Indigenous-created programming in mainstream broadcasting policies.

2.2 Language use and comments are monitored considering historical and ongoing discrimination, negative stereotyping, and injustice experienced by Indigenous Peoples. This may be accomplished through the formulation of an Indigenous and Government Representative Council that continuously monitors tone and discrimination against Indigenous Peoples.

2.3 Advance Indigenous Peoples self-determination by granting them the opportunity to represent themselves through personal narratives and stories accomplished through community consultation and by requesting the federal government's support in the transfer of resources to grassroots community initiatives that enable Indigenous community members to obtain training. Training can include the production of quality journalism and article writing that can be shared with mainstream media channels. Co-sharing in the monitoring and evaluation of such programs would ensure success long term.

2.4 Canadian content requirements for music on commercial radio stations must mandate a minimum percentage of Indigenous related music selections.

2.5 Grant community-distinct funding and resources such that Indigenous communities are able to create curricula that incorporates traditional stories, songs and place to foster language growth and culture. To honour the true histories of Indigenous Peoples, education for youth across Canada must not exclude cultural literacy from digital literacy. Cultural literacy is part of digital literacy and therefore Indigenous insights must be a part of the tech learning environment.

2.6 The creation of a government funded national digitization strategy, including capacity support by the federal government for Indigenous communities that aims to archive Indigenous languages. This requires the creation of a mechanism that connects first speakers and Elders with digital platform designs that acknowledges traditional pedagogies.

2.7 Federal funded grant applications for aired language programming are simplified. Further, operational expenses, equipment and infrastructure must also be more widely available through greater grant funding opportunities specific to radio/broadcasting studio material.

2.8 Eliminate misinformation, disinformation, or polarization from social media/news media platforms regarding Indigenous Peoples through greater funding of Indigenous led digital literacy and digital mediation training. This may be achieved through connection of Indigenous youth to community organizations and institutions that apply Indigenous epistemology towards data collection and annotation processes.

2.9 In accordance with TRC's Call to Action 86, comprehensive curricula about Indigenous issues are mandated in all Canadian journalism schools and media programs. Curriculum must pertain to the history of Indigenous Peoples, including the residential school system, Indigenous rights, treaties and crown relations, and the Declaration as it braids into domestic laws. It is also recommended that the creation and delivery of this curricula is Indigenous led.

2.10 Create a publicly available online catalog of Indigenous music, allowing mainstream radio to be aware of and thus have the ability to more readily select from the rich and diverse range of Indigenous music, artists, and genres.

2.11 Consider a CRTC policy on proportionate programming that would mandate that Indigenous content, whether on the radio or television meets a minimum requirement and not relegate Indigenous local issues to only local news stations.

2.12 The Ministry of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship recognizes the importance of including Indigenous Peoples history and infuses online education, tools and examinations with Indigenous cultural learning outcomes and competencies in all testing materials.

2.13 Technological spaces including virtual reality, Artificial Intelligence (AI), language learning apps and upcoming technologies infuse multi-generational transmission of knowledge into how they are designed, programmed, and applied in Indigenous storytelling. We encourage the Government to prioritize the growth of Indigenous led tech companies to develop language learning games through application of Virtual Reality (VR) technologies and GPS.

2.14 Enact a requirement to create an affirmative action program to increase employment opportunities for Indigenous Peoples within national broadcasting organizations.

2.15 Broadcasting networks should seek sustainable solutions to increase representation through federal budget and resource allocations to support Indigenous opportunities, including placements and internships.

2.16 Increase federal funding that enables Indigenous radio stations to offer mentoring and training opportunities for Indigenous youth looking to build skills in radio broadcasting and journalism.

2.17 Increase federal funding that is available specifically for Indigenous created content development aired on Type B radio waves, while also reducing the barriers in application cycles for licenses via regulatory updates.

2.18 Undertake, in collaboration with Indigenous communities, the creation of digital safe spaces, including virtual conferences, websites, mobile applications and VR technologies that foster knowledge sharing and the revitalization of language and oral traditions.

2.19 Formalize the provision of incentives offered by the CRTC to commercial programming services (radio, television) for airing and/or contributing to the production of Indigenous content.

2.20 As part of a formalized commitment towards the reflection of Indigenous cultural diversity in federally funded media initiatives, development of a policy, issued by the CRTC, that requires radio and television companies to make financial contributions towards the creation of Indigenous programs, series and features that ultimately support Indigenous Peoples' reach and imagine new ways of supporting language and culture revitalization.

2.21 Form an Advisory Council between Indigenous owned radio stations and representatives from mainstream media stations to follow wise practices related to Indigenous language revitalization in both contexts, as well as the creation of a digital systems for monitoring programming compliance.

2.22 Support the creation of an online platform that showcases a Canada-wide network of Indigenous radio broadcasters, stations, and personnel.

2.23 Encourage CRTC to continue to evaluate cultural awareness and unconscious bias training for all staff, senior management, and Commissioners from its own organization, as well as the radio, television, and broadcasting companies. Ensure the CRTC continues to govern this evaluation as part of its annual reporting minimums.

2.24 The CRTC monitors the use of budget allocations towards diversity quotas for publicly funded broadcasting networks that reflect the demographics of contemporary Canada (minority groups including BIPOC, Indigenous Peoples and 2SLGBTQ+ communities).

2.25 Install a representation minimum for CRTC-funded institutions to include Indigenous, BIPOC, and persons with disabilities into production and broadcasting roles.

Consistency of Laws

Native Broadcasting Policy, CRTC 1990-89:

The federal government plays an important role in the preservation and promotion of Indigenous languages, cultures, and stories. The current revision to the Native Broadcasting Policy, in consultation with Indigenous community members is encouraging. We want to place special emphasis on the importance of involving Indigenous youth in policy reform. Emergence of new technologies and platforms is where consultation is crucial. Indigenous youth's interests and preferences for apps, new technology and content choices may inform the direction in which the CRTC may orient its funding mechanisms and overall plan. Indigenous youths are those that will carry the language to the next Seven generations, it is important to understand what draws their interests and carve out key initiatives to encourage youth members of Indigenous communities to become involved in policy decision making.

Revised Commercial Radio Policy

The Commission expects commercial radio broadcasters to report annually on the amount of Indigenous content aired including the percentage of Indigenous musical selections and the number of distinct artists whose music they have broadcasted. We encourage the CRTC to consider the creation of a framework that centralizes the implementation of [Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP) Principles](#) relating to Indigenous digital content and art. Considering all commercial radio stations in Canada must meet the 35% Canadian content requirement each week, perhaps infusing the current outlook on Indigenous content with greater specificity on percentage requirements may result in greater systemic change across the commercial policy landscape.

Cultural Appropriation in the Digital Landscape

Cultural appropriation is the act of taking from someone else's culture without their consent. Our informants want to see more of a strategic approach to addressing cultural appropriation on social media. For example, the demand for clear rules prohibiting the harmful exploitation and capitalization of Indigenous designs, art, music, or stereotypical images in fashion, advertising, literature, and film may be reflected in cultural appropriation strategies, and legislation that recognizes the moral, social, cultural, and spiritual ramifications and economic injustices that ensue. Further, our informants expressed concern over the lack of attribution that goes to the original owner on media platforms. We request the Privacy Commissioner to develop a framework that addresses cultural appropriation and incorporates key teachings that promote cultural appreciation, with mechanisms that could impact social media platforms and private organizations' use. Similar to Canada's Council for the Arts' stand against cultural appropriation through the implementation of a funding and application system to support Indigenous cultural sovereignty, we hope to see a progression of this movement within the digital context.

Intellectual Property and Traditional Knowledge

We request that Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) continue the co-creation and co-implementation of *sui generis* policies to protect and revitalize Traditional Knowledges and Traditional Cultural Expressions through alternative frameworks in intellectual property rights. The continuous participation and dialogue among Indigenous representatives, Innovation, Science and Development Canada (ISED) and the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) is fundamental to continue finding legally binding solutions for the collective protection of Indigenous ways of knowing and doing.

Building on Success – A Policy Framework for Canadian Television

Radio stations are required to play a significant percentage of Canadian content, wherein 35% of the popular music played on commercial radio stations between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. must be Canadian content. We encourage an amendment to mandate annual reporting on the total hours of *Indigenous-specific* content, whether aired on radio and/or television throughout the broadcast year.

Canadian Broadcasting Policy

We encourage the federal government to explore avenues to ensure that the term "Canadian content" is expanded. This can assist in establishing a framework for monitoring, evaluation, and consultation with Indigenous Peoples as a central focus of this expansion.

Canadian Program Certification

The Canadian Program Certification helps independent Canadian producers and broadcasters obtain recognition for productions that use mainly Canadian crews. We encourage the minimum criteria to be expanded to include Indigenous participation to support cultural outcomes emphasized in the Declaration's articles 16.1 and 16.2. For example, key creative functions being performed by Indigenous-identifying crew may be awarded a greater number of points, resulting in greater inclusion of diverse groups within independent media spaces and even more high-quality Canadian productions. To facilitate the realization of this proposal, the creation of an online platform that enlists Indigenous identifying persons who may be eligible to participate in the production of on camera activities in Canadian produced TV and film series.

Bill C-91: An Act Respecting Indigenous Languages

There are over 70 Indigenous languages in Canada. Language revitalization is at the core of reclaiming Indigenous identity and the right to self-determination. Bill C-91 ties directly to Article 13 of the Declaration, stating that Indigenous Peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places, and persons.

Activities to create technological tools, educational materials, and permanent records of Indigenous languages, including audio and video recordings of fluent speakers and funding immersion programs has been recognized as part of the Bill. However, there needs to be an improved outline of the direct transfer of power in decision making and the use of resources such that Indigenous communities lead in the research, planning, development, launch and maintenance of their own language-based technology and learning tools. For example, as part of language revitalization programs, informants mentioned the inclusion of Indigenous languages on provincial signs on highways and parks that are on or near treaty territory. Further, an accountability mechanism embedded in the language revitalization plan must ensure funding is consistent, streamlined and its use is determined by and for Indigenous communities.

Bill C-11: Online Streaming Act

In Canada, services that broadcast over the Internet do not need a license from the CRTC. The capabilities that consumers have accessing content from phones, computers, and other electronic devices, however, is moving forward at an exponential pace, and the modernization of what the CRTC can do to support ethnic minorities to feel safe on the Internet is of utmost concern. Every platform must be held accountable. Bill C-11 is an opportunity to set the *Broadcasting Act*'s

principles around Indigenous rights to anti-discrimination, anti-racism, and the fabrication of good relations among Indigenous Peoples and all other segments of society. In line with the UNDRIP Article 16.2, *"States … should encourage privately owned media to adequately reflect indigenous cultural diversity"*, we encourage the CRTC to form mission driven relationships with social media and streaming platforms, as well as Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers and youth to work towards creating a more equitable landscape for minority groups to showcase content created by Indigenous artists and creators so that more Canadians can find, choose, and enjoy this content.

Themes and Articles

Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Rights
- Art 13 - Histories, languages, philosophies transmittal and translation

Education, Information and Media
- Art 14 - Educational systems and access to education
- Art 15 - Cultural diversity reflected in public education, promote tolerance
- Art 16 - Right to establish media, non-discrimination and promote cultural diversity

Theme 3: Right to Indigenous Data Sovereignty through Digital Technologies, Infrastructure, and Properties that Promote Self-Determination Towards Cultural, Social, and Economic Development

Proposed Measure

To create a robust, community-distinct framework on Indigenous Data Sovereignty governed by the tenets of self-determination and self-government through ethical guidelines in the emergence of new technologies to preserve culture and foster economic proliferation in a precarious digital domain.

Rationale

Geography in the modern concept has become a broader praxis that extends beyond the physical terrain. Today's conceptualization of geography incorporates digital and virtual spaces. Parallel to the physical environment where human interactions lead to connection and relationships, we employ the same concept in digital technologies enriched by the Declaration.

Only 24% of reserve communities in Canada have high speed Internet access - a harrowing difference from the 97% of Canadians living in urban and suburban areas. The digital divide is born out of policy that denies Indigenous communities' equality of opportunity and access to essential online services, such as health care, counseling, education, news media, social media, and delivery services. Without the proper digital infrastructure and supported connection, Indigenous communities lose the ability to maintain their physical, emotional, social, and spiritual wellness and safety. This is a fundamental human right. The federal government has an opportunity to not only close the digital divide, but to take another meaningful step towards truth

and reconciliation by updating policies that support Internet access in rural and remote communities.

In an era where data and information extraction are normalized in the new world systems to thrive, we encourage the creation of an action plan framework on data sovereignty that extends beyond autonomy. As one of the founding members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the federal government has the opportunity to center the concept of safe and equitable digital spaces that is anchored on inclusivity, communality and stewardship.

Key Priorities and Outcomes

1) Data Sovereignty and Data Governance in the Local Contexts

- Canada's digital and data transformation must be viewed through the lens of Canada's obligations to implement the Act.
- Not exclusive to the First Nations right to ownership, control, access, and possession (OCAP) principles, provincial and federal governments will adhere to recognizing other Indigenous communities' research strategies, data privacy and protection with future AI Systems.
- Indigenous communities freely exercise their individual and collective rights towards self-determination in tech innovation, resource allocation, and decision-making of their own community data resources.
- Indigenous Peoples have an in-depth understanding of their authority to take control of their cultural practices, technologies, knowledge, territories, and languages.
- Inter-state and international networks and liaisons (i.e., Global Indigenous Data Alliance or GIDA, where the First Nations Information Governance Centre or FNIGC is a member), involving participation from Métis and Inuit communities, must work towards the development of a Data Ownership and Governance framework that globally protects Indigenous Peoples rights.
- Indigenous Peoples' cultural identity will be infused in the framework of Indigenous Data extraction and use, with substantive guidelines and provisions on data governance that benefits communities, not precluding their right to self-determine data sharing and usage.
- The provincial and federal governments support [Indigenous language data collection and management processes](#) that advances Indigenous Peoples' self-determination and collective benefit.

2) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Algorithms and Data Information

- Recognize cyberspace as another frontier where conscious efforts are taken to ensure Indigenous Peoples define, develop, and control the digital territory and resources as they see fit.
- Indigenous artists and innovators actively contribute to the creation of a framework that emphasizes inclusivity in Artificial Intelligence (AI) system use.

- Knowledge sharing is facilitated on the digitization of information, and on how software and algorithms become the essence of the technologies that operate for Indigenous and racialized communities to understand colonialism and discrimination on data extraction
- Implementation of the [CARE Principles of Indigenous Data Governance](#), as developed by the Global Indigenous Data Alliance (GIDA), in educational programs and collaboratives across domestic and international settings.
- Indigenous Peoples, 2SLGBTQ+, neurodiverse, and other marginalized communities are online streaming decision-makers in their innovations.

3) Indigenous Data Governance for Stewardship & Digital Infrastructure

- Strong network and collaboratives inclusive of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit community groups, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) providers, researchers, digital platform users, and policymakers who advocate for and support Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Data Governance centering in the Act.
- Indigenous community members serve as council of SMEs and representatives to liaise with international networks who advocate for global cooperation in Data Sovereignty specifically among Indigenous Peoples, 2SLGBTQ+ communities, and marginalized communities.
- Every reserve and remote Indigenous community in Canada must have reliable, affordable access to high-speed Internet services, as provided to the vast majority of Canadians living in urban centers.
- Improved and Indigenous-consulted administration of museums, Indigenous artifacts, and information on public heritage sites, with a review undertaken for the return of cultural items inappropriately taken within or outside Canada to allow for the repatriation of artifacts to the respective communities.
- Canada, as a founding member of the OECD, must take an active role in centering issues on disinformation and misinformation against Indigenous Peoples and other racialized communities globally, and sets this as a critical priority to also strengthen international cooperation.

Actions

3.1 The federal government must implement parameters that require collection and management of Indigenous Peoples' data to include free, prior, and informed consultations with local communities and their protocols, not exclusive to OCAP Principles, the Circumpolar Inuit Protocols for Equitable and Ethical Engagement, and any third parties, such as the Research Ethics Board.

3.2 Governments rely heavily on the principle of free and informed consent among Indigenous Peoples to rationalize data extraction given that Indigenous peoples are to have complete control of their data, including digitized information.

3.3 Educational programs and knowledge sharing on data extractions involving innovations, resources, and wise practices initiated by various groups and organizations within and among diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis to foster lateral compassion.

3.4 Inter and intra-community engagements among First Nations, Métis, and Inuit to collate a robust framework on data governance and matters that include data collection and extraction.

3.5 Governments to fund and support the creation of committees, inclusive of Indigenous Elders, Traditional Knowledge Keepers, community leaders and tech innovators, to assist government in learning and sharing best practices from domestic and international settings on Digital Content Governance and Data Trusts, highlighting the diversity of content and the benefit of global initiatives.

3.6 The government actively supports language programs and initiatives among various Indigenous communities, not only aligning with the language provisions in the Declaration and the TRC's 94 Calls to Action, but on the understanding that culture is embedded in the language and Indigenous data governance delves into cultural competence and identity.

3.7 The government engages in consultations with digital artists and developers from Indigenous and other racialized communities to explore, through an arts based analysis, the ethical, cultural, and political implications of AI systems and policies.

3.8 In the exercise of their sovereignty, Indigenous communities co-develop their respective policy framework to ensure that digital economies do not discriminate and exclude marginalized communities.

3.9 The governments support research and cross-sectional studies involving various sectors in the community, on how Data Trust and Privacy laws can align with Indigenous laws on data collection, ownership, control as well as how acquired data can benefit all communities involved.

3.10 Government support in conducting digital and media literacy programs for the responsible use of technology to delve into Data Governance, ownership, and fairness to combat racism, discrimination, and stereotyping in the current digital divide among communities across Canada.

3.11 Visible representation among marginalized communities advocating and collaborating toward Geographic innovation systems (GIS) to explore data which are inclusive, diverse, culturally bounded, and community owned.

3.12 Knowledge-sharing and support for cultural competency in the realm of Data Sovereignty, through education, capacity-building, and knowledge sharing among wise practices gathered by various communities to prevent lateral violence.

3.13 Fiscal and administrative support for the modernization of Canada's Museum Policy to align with Calls to Action 67-70 on Museums and Archives to foster preservation and maintenance of cultural items and Indigenous artifacts.

3.14 Governments to include cultural and social literacy in its digital literacy programs, in recognition of the fact that mitigation of racism and discrimination on digital platforms involves scrutinizing false narratives in unrestricted and unsafe virtual spaces.

3.15 More robust Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) which is designed to help Indigenous youth improve their skills and find employment, including training and skills education to increase numeracy and digital literacy programs among Indigenous youth. This means a more apt skills development curriculum for Indigenous students to connect to ICT career pathways.

3.16 Build technology stewardship within Indigenous communities such that members are empowered to encourage the adoption and use of digital technologies for communications, training, and knowledge transfer. The aim of stewardship programs is also to ensure community members can obtain a self-determined, leadership capacity that supports informed choices when incorporating digital technologies into the community. This must also recognize that community education and training to repair IT and Internet related issues that arise, instead of relying on outside resources is a key component of the proposed stewardship program.

3.17 We are calling on the federal government to allow spectrum licenses to be issued separately for urban and rural areas. Further, communities' sovereignty on the type of spectrum (Internet) to meet their needs should be addressed through consultation with the communities to which the services will support.

Consistency of Laws

The recent release of the Digital Charter Implementation Act 2022 or Bill C-27 (now debated at second reading in the House) will significantly strengthen Canada's private sector privacy law and create new rules for the responsible development and use of Artificial intelligence (AI) and continue advancing the implementation of Canada's Digital Charter.

Bill C-27 is An Act to enact the Consumer Privacy Protection Act (CPPA), the Personal Information and Data Protection Tribunal Act (PIDPTA), and the Artificial Intelligence and Data Act (AIDA) and to make consequential and related amendments to other Acts. The Bill mirrors the General Data Protection Regulation of the EU but with the hope for a more reconciliatory, inclusive, and comprehensive coverage. IFA suggests that the Indigenous Data Sovereignty concept would have a symbiosis with the Federal government's proposed legislation. This development would align with the spirit and intent of the government's attempts to implement the *UNDRIP Act.*

Consumer Privacy Protection Act (CPPA)

This would repeal parts of the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) for a new regime to govern the collection, use, and disclosure of personal information for commercial activity in Canada. This act will maintain and modernize existing rules and impose anew on private organizations to protect the personal information of service users.

The CPPA gives more power to the Privacy Commissioner to oversee organizations' compliance with the new rules under a new privacy management program (s.9) that centers on consent in recording and documenting data. We amplify the equitable implementation, notwithstanding the race and educational background of the info-data giver, with clear and definitive guidelines to avoid ambiguity and subjective interpretations. IFA recommends that the office of the Privacy Commissioner be mindful of the Nation-to-Nation approach when working with Indigenous-led organizations, and that compliance comes from a free, prior, and informed giving of consent.

Amendments to *PIPEDA* emphasize identifying data information before and during collection and the rationale for each collection, use, recording, and disclosure of personal information. We support using plain language to support "informed consent" in which any individual can reasonably understand why, for whom, and which data information will be acquired.

The *CPPA* imposes new data rights related to automated decision-making data disposal rights and data portability rights. We recommend that implementation be precise and in plain language to inform users, notwithstanding that they may not request information at all.

The IFA recommends that in the notion of "data control", where organizations have personal information that is transferable to another service provider as representative of the organization; the latter should have the same responsibility and accountability in the level of protection owed to the owner of the information (except for consented exceptions on activities explicated in the Act).

The IFA recommends a *CPPA* framework which considers Indigenous Data Sovereignty in the passing of the law and for the federal government to have a symbiotic relationship with Indigenous advocates and proponents for a nationwide collaboration.

Artificial Intelligence and Data Act (AIDA)

Bill C-27 paves the way for creating a new framework for the ethical use and development of AI, which regulates international and inter-provincial trade and commerce. We support establishing a transparent regulation accessible by various communities, supported by respective regulatory agencies, especially when it involves Indigenous Peoples and racialized communities' data inputs and usage. The IFA recommends a diverse, inclusive, and equitable AI system, not just for private sector usage. We also recommend that this AI system foster Indigenous Peoples' and marginalized communities' identity, culture, and advocacy. We support the development of AI with a focus on social impact, where communities can self-determine the outcome of its utilization.

We call for mindful stewardship in the development of AI systems through legislation, especially when implemented and used in relation to minors, even in educational institutions. Guardians must be well-informed regarding the means of data collection including disclosure regarding the possession, control, storage, and use of the information gathered. Further, once informed, consent must be given by such guardians.

In the establishment of identification and assessment of risk-reduction outputs, which delves into net neutrality, stereotyping, and discrimination, there should also be representation and visibility of Indigenous innovators, tech educators, mentors and advocates who engage and partner with government bodies in the framework.

The IFA further recommends that for effective risk-mitigation measures, there should be specific guidelines which consider the current unique situation of Indigenous Peoples and racialized communities in the digital realm. Further, the IFA supports the "plain language" requirement for the system framework and its use, the types of data content generated, and even the recommendations and projections that the AI system can make, which duly aligns with the Declaration's tenet on informed consent.

Impact Assessment Act

We call for the majority of members in the Expert and Advisory committees established under the *Impact Assessment Act* to be composed of Indigenous scholars, Elders, Traditional Knowledge Keepers and community leaders in digitized and tech-innovated assessments. We usher in the inclusion of Indigenous researchers, curators, archaeologists, and SMEs to assist in the accurate data sharing and analysis for prospective community impact assessments.

The essence of the Act fosters a sincere and earnest transformation in recognizing and ferreting out the truth about the cultural items and artifacts in museums that explicate the history of the Indigenous Peoples in Canada. We call upon the modernization of Canada's Museum Policy to align with the government's efforts on reconciliation with the Indigenous Peoples. In support of the Calls to Action 67-70 on Museums and Archives, we amplify the voices of our partnered communities, including the longstanding need for fiscal and administrative support.

Intellectual Property Law in Canada

Intellectual property law in Canada, similar to data privacy laws, fails to recognize the concept of collective or community ownership. Though co-ownership is permitted, there are limitations to using the other co-owner's work. The Copyright Act is silent on the mechanics of joint ownership, though subsection 13(4) provides that owners may assign in whole or in part the copyright of their works. However, the exact nature of co-ownership and one co-owner's rights concerning the other must be defined. Thus, we introduce the notion of communal ownership, specifically reflective of the culture of Indigenous communities. Indigenous communities are diverse, and we hope to see a general provision in these laws that considers the various concepts of Indigenous knowing and communal sharing.

Copyright and patent law lack the legal tools to allow for collective ownership of content and ideas and were developed without knowledge of traditional Indigenous forms of creativity. In line with the Declaration, policymakers should reform the copyright system to prevent the disrespectful and offensive use of traditional cultural expressions. We encourage the federal government to seek ways to reaffirm the guiding OCAP Principles, as well as to acknowledge and

centralize Indigenous ways of knowing to identify ways in which storytelling, songs, and art - similar to the lands, are to be protected.

Themes and Articles

General Principles
- Art 2 - Equality and Non-Discrimination
- Art 44 - Gender Equality

Self- Determination, and Self-Government
- Articles 3 and 4

Lands, Territories, and Resources
- Art 26 - Ownership, Use, Development and Legal Recognition
- Art 27 - Process to Adjudicate Rights
- Art 28 - Redress, Restitution, and Compensation
- Art 32 - Development Strategies, Free, Prior, and Informed, Consent (FPIC)

Education, Information, and Media
- Art 16 - Right to establish media, non-discrimination and promote cultural diversity

Implementation and Redress
- Art 39 - Access to Financial, technical assistance

Civil and Political Rights
- Art 9 - Belong to Community
- Art 33 - Membership
- Art 35 and 36 - Responsibilities among Communities across Borders

Participation in Decision-making and Indigenous Institutions
- Art 5 - Maintaining and Strengthening distinct political, legal, economic, social, and cultural institutions
- Art 18 - Participation in decision-making
- Art 19 - Consultation and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)
- Art 34 - Institutional structures, Judicial Systems, or Customs

Economic, and Social Rights
- Art 21 - Non-discriminatory improvement of conditions
- Art 22 - Needs of vulnerable groups
- Art 23 - Right to Development

Cultural, Religious, and Linguistic Rights
- Art 12 - Spiritual and Religious Traditions and Objects
- Art 13 - Histories, Languages, Philosophies Transmittal and Translation
- Art 23 - Right to Development

- Art 31 - Maintenance and Protection of Cultural Heritage

Conclusion

The IFA Action Plan reaffirms the Declaration as a universal international human rights instrument and suggests its tangible application in current federal law. Through consultations with our community partners, SMEs and student groups, the IFA has identified three core areas wherein the federal government must take immediate legislative action in the name of reconciliation: Climate and Cultural Revitalization, Telecommunications, Digital Media, and Self Determination in the Digital Context. We would also like to further emphasize the significance of passing of the Act as a necessary step to fully recognize the rights of Indigenous Peoples and enhance harmonious and cooperative relations between the government, Indigenous Peoples, and the global community. The principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, and non-discrimination guide our work and we hope to see these principles reflected in the preceding momentum displayed by parliamentary leaders and decision makers. We hope our Action Plan supports accountability to and acceptance of these proposed measures as an integral component of our country's framework for reconciliation and the promotion of the universal rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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