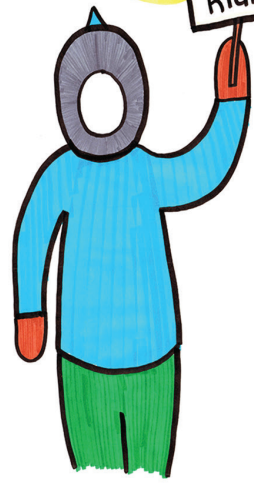


Δ Δ Δ<sup>c</sup>  
RIGHTS!

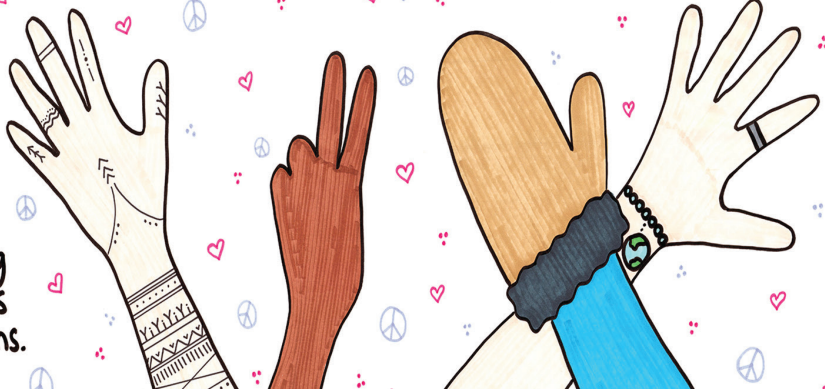


# UNDRIP

WITH

# QARJUIT & MAKIVVIK

working  
towards  
solutions.







# ABOUT QARJUIT YOUTH COUNCIL

Launched in September 2015, Qarjuit Youth Council (QYC) is an ethnic, non-for-profit organization, which represents over 5000 dynamic and dedicated Inuit youth of Nunavik and Chisasibi between the ages of 15 to 35 years old. We exist to provide our youth with opportunities and knowledge in order to improve their quality of life, to empower themselves and to explore their full potential as responsible citizens and leaders. Giving youth the voice they deserve, in the modern society we currently live in and, to also bring forward our cultural values is the core of our functions. Youth are in a position to mobilize themselves through their cultural resiliency and knowledge in both environments: modern day society and their root identities.



**Mental Health**



**Inuit Identity**



**School  
Perseverance**



**Youth  
Network**



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**Disclaimer:** This booklet provides legal information and is not legal advice or a legal opinion.





## QYC MISSION

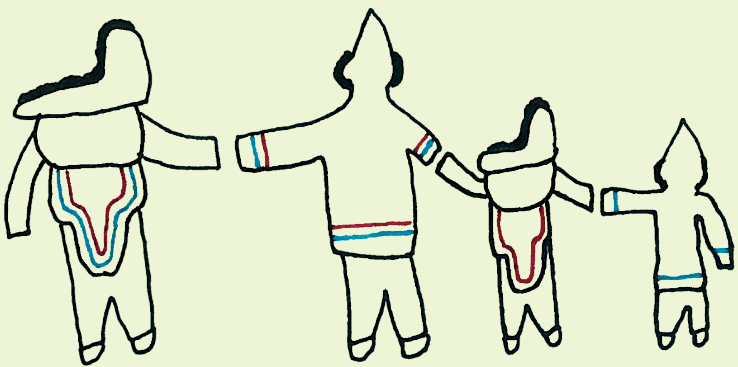
Qarjuit Youth Council (QYC) strives to be part of the solution in improving the lives of the youth from the ages of 15 to 35 in Nunavik and Chisasibi. By providing information, support and programs specifically designed by and for them, QYC aims to give youth the voice they deserve, in our modern society. Bringing forward our cultural values is the core of our mission.

## CONTEXT

This past March, with the collaboration of Makivvik, Exeko and many great advisors, we brought our community leaders together to reflect on their rights and the different articles under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights for Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), opening the floor to discussion on where our governments should reinforce the focus for improvement.

In the region, 72% of the Inuit population is under 35 years old and 36% is between 15-34 years old. Median age in Nunavik is 21 year old.\* **Youth, in Nunavik, represents a massive force for hope.**

It is time for you, youth, to express your needs and mobilize your force. Use this tool to advocate and share your thoughts. Draw your ideas and share them with us. Talk about your rights, don't be afraid to ask questions and stay in touch with us!



\*Statistic 2016.

## WHAT IS THE UNDRIP?

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (“UNDRIP”) was adopted in 2007 by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, where almost all countries in the world are represented.

UNDRIP is the result of over thirty years of work and advocacy from Indigenous peoples across the world. Inuit leaders had a large role in creating UNDRIP. Their goal was to have countries respect and protect the rights of Inuit and all Indigenous peoples.

**UNDRIP sets out minimum standards necessary for the survival, dignity and well-being of all Indigenous peoples.**

UNDRIP contains 46 articles. In it are Indigenous rights that are mostly collective – in other words, that apply to Indigenous Nations and communities rather than to individual people. Those rights relate to various matters such as governance, treaties, health, community, culture, language, lands, territories, resources, and education.

UNDRIP is addressed to all the countries in the world (referred to as States in UNDRIP), setting out the rights they should respect and the responsibilities of the States to protect the rights and to take action to correct violations of these rights.





## UNDRIP IN CANADA

Although the Government of Canada initially did not support UNDRIP and even voted against it at the UN in 2007, it had changed its position by 2016. More recently, it has taken steps to see UNDRIP apply within Canada. This is important because UNDRIP is a “declaration” that does not have the status of an international law that would automatically apply to each country. While some of the specific rights in UNDRIP are accepted as customary international law and therefore legally binding, the Government of Canada needed to formally accept that the whole of UNDRIP would have a legal effect in Canada.

To do this, in 2021, the Government of Canada passed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People Act (UNDA).

**The UNDA is a federal law that affirms UNDRIP as a universal human rights instrument with application in Canadian law and requires Canada to start a process to make sure federal laws respect the rights of Indigenous peoples.**



## Here are some examples of Indigenous rights contained in UNDRIP:



Rights to self-determination, self-government, and the recognition of treaties.



Rights to ownership of traditional lands, to protection from forced relocation, and to free prior and informed consent by Indigenous peoples before others use their lands.



Rights related to conservation and environmental protection of Indigenous land.



Economic and social rights, such as the right to economic and land development, and the right to health and traditional medicines.



Rights to culture, histories, languages, spiritual traditions and relationship with the land.



Rights to control education systems, access to education, and cultural education; etc.

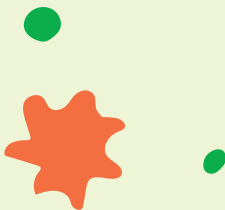
## HOW CAN IT SUPPORT ME AS NUNAVIMMIUT UVIKKAIT?

Under the UNDA, the Government of Canada is required to make an Action Plan to detail how the federal government will implement UNDRIP in a concrete way in Canada. The Action Plan was made public in June of 2023. Makivvik, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and Inuit from across Canada were involved in the making of the Action Plan and tried to influence as much as possible how Canada would describe those measures.

**QYC participated in the making of the UNDA Action Plan by voicing the priorities of youth in Nunavik during the March workshop and also through discussions with Inuit leaders and federal Ministers.**

The Action Plan includes measures to address the matters that Inuit youth raised as being important to them, including Actions on education, housing, health, and culture. There is an Inuit specific chapter and throughout the Action Plan there are Actions aimed at achieving the objectives of UNDRIP for Inuit.

It is important to note that UNDA is a federal law and therefore implements UNDRIP and the UNDA Action Plan at the federal level in Canada. As of right now, although the Québec National Assembly has unanimously called for the adoption of UNDRIP, the Government of Québec has not yet taken any steps to formally implement it within the province.



## HOW CAN I USE UNDRIP IN THE FUTURE?

Despite the limitations, UNDRIP remains a useful political and legal tool for the protection of Indigenous rights and to put pressure on governments to recognize those minimum rights of Indigenous peoples that are included in the Declaration.

**UNDRIP remains a useful political and legal tool for the protection of Indigenous rights.**

## HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET?

This booklet is a summary of discussions we had around the UNDRIP with our QYC leaders. Their drawings and words are meant to inspire you to research more on this topic,

asking questions among yourself about your rights. Use the blank pages here to draw your own understanding of what could be the implementations and actions that support your rights.





# OFFICIAL LETTER OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM JANICE PARSONS

Greetings,

Qarjuit Youth Council (QYC) is an ethnic, non-for-profit organization representing Inuit youth of Nunavik and Chisasibi, aged 15 to 35. QYC provides our youth with opportunities and knowledge to improve their quality of life and empower themselves. Over the past few years, Qarjuit Youth Council and our dedicated team have worked hard to build a strong foundation for the organization.


This past March, with the collaboration of Makivvik, Exeko and many great advisors, we brought our community leaders together to reflect on their rights and the different articles under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights for Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), opening the floor to discussion on where our governments shall reinforce the focus for improvement.

This letter formally requests the opportunity for sharing their priorities and bring their voice forward. They focus on four main branches concerning environmental, educational, Inuit practices and health services.

Under the environmental section, youth are focusing attention on articles 9, 30, 31 and 32, and the expectation that Inuit regain control over their land within a self-determination process.

Over educational rights and under articles 13 and 14, youth are requesting equal access to education as any other Canadian citizens while empowering Inuit with resources allowing them to put forward a culturally appropriate curriculum, recognizing their customary practices and language. Inuit youth leaders are requesting funding, making regional colleges, post-secondary education and on-the-land programs available in Nunavik. The Nunavik Sivunitsiavut (NS) curriculum must be taught in our regional high schools, and special needs resources at all levels shall be accessible to teachers. Following these educational powers, Inuit youth advocate making their rights to practice their culture a reality. The right to access Inuit practices shall be empowered within the school curriculum (ex., skills on how to survive on the land, process for making a kayak or a drum, throat singing, storytelling, tattoos, etc.).





Finally, under the promotion of articles 21, 23 and 24 of the UNDRIP, the right not to be discriminated against and to have access to high-standard quality health services is a priority for our QYC leaders. Mandatory cultural sensitivity training in health care, security and other professional spheres is required for all non-Inuit workers to support this statement and counter discrimination and prejudices. The right to be treated by our healthcare workers in the language of our choice needs to be taken seriously by prioritizing having more interpreters and the right to receive hospital services at home. Practices of customary medicine and positive acknowledgement shall be recognized while offering patients the right to choose the treatment they want, empowering the Inuit-centered conception of health. Our governments shall promote a solid regional network of knowledge keepers and natural healers with a certification by supporting and recognizing their practices within the 15 communities we aim to represent.

***“ Inuit regain control over their land within a self-determination process.”***

Our youth are a massive force for hope in the region, and now it is time to support them in tackling the following recommendations. In Nunavik, 72% of the Inuit population is under 35. Along with these recommendations, Qarjuit youth leaders highlight the need for more funding to build more sustainable and suitable houses and support the physical and mental health of these young and dynamic communities.

We thank you for your consideration and for supporting the well-being of all Inuit youth in Nunavik and Chisasibi.

Best regards,

Nakurmiimarialuk!



**JANICE PARSONS**  
President of Qarjuit Youth Council



# HEALTH

## **EXAMPLES OF HIGHLIGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- The right not to be discriminated against and to have access to high-standard quality health services
- Mandatory cultural sensitivity training in health care, security and other professional spheres is required for all non-Inuit workers to support this statement and counter discrimination and prejudices.
- The right to be treated by our healthcare workers in the language of our choice needs to be taken seriously by prioritizing having more interpreters and the right to receive hospital services at home.
- Practices of customary medicine and positive acknowledgement shall be recognized while offering patients the right to choose the treatment they want, empowering the Inuit centered conception of health.

# Health Care

## Mental Health



Healing



Interpreters  
Supports



Doctors



Natural  
Helpers

UNDRIP ARTICLES # 24 & 26

SUPPORTS: NRBHSS, ISUARSIVIK, NI, CLSC

# Health

SELF-DETERMINATION

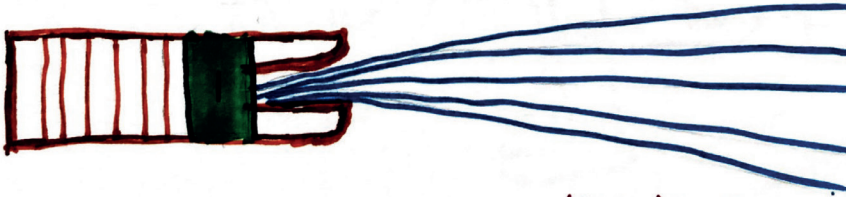
Everything is inter-connected



Recognized

Education

I am mentally & physically well



➔➔➔➔➔  
(Moving Forward)

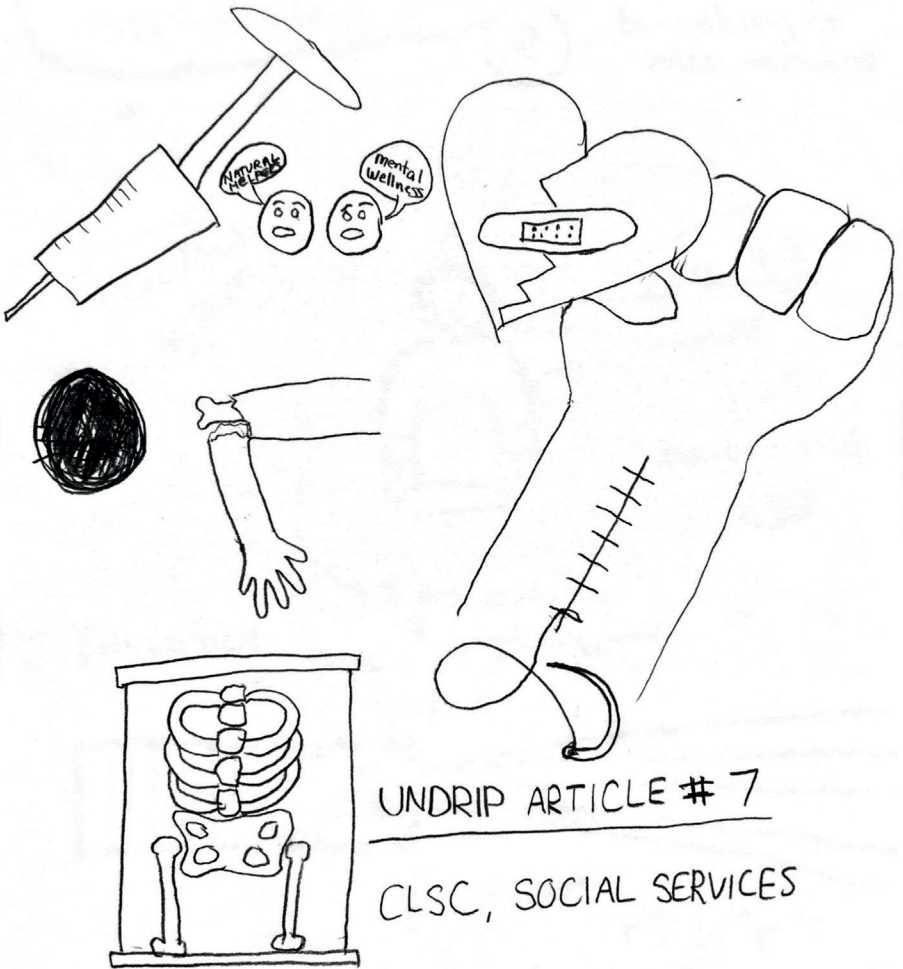
Healthy



HAPPY

Life

We need better health services!



UND RIP ARTICLE # 7

CLSC, SOCIAL SERVICES



# EDUCATION

## HIGHLIGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Youth are requesting equal access to education as any other Canadian citizens while empowering Inuit with resources allowing them to put forward a culturally appropriate curriculum, recognizing their customary practices and language.
- Inuit youth leaders are requesting funding, making regional colleges, post-secondary education and on-the-land programs available in Nunavik.
- The Nunavik Sivunitsiavut (NS) curriculum must be taught in our regional high schools, and special needs resources at all levels shall be accessible to teachers.
- The right to access Inuit practices shall be empowered within the school curriculum (ex., skills on how to survive on the land, process for making a kayak or a drum, throat singing, storytelling, tattoos, etc.)



ᐃᑦᐅᑦ  
Day of prohibition

ᐱᐱᑦᐅᐱᑦ  
Rules of food

## Sense of duty...

ᐱᐅᑦᐅᑦᐅᑦ  
Namesake

ᐃᑦᐅᑦᐅᑦ  
Family &  
Extended fam

ᐃᑦᐅᑦᐅᑦ  
Song cousins

community  
relations

Strict

own  
rules



ᐃᑦᐅᑦᐅᑦ  
Shaman

ᐃᑦᐅᑦᐅᑦ  
Elder

## Inuit Law...

ᐃᑦᐅᑦᐅᑦ  
child rearing

ᐱᑦᐅᑦᐅᑦ  
Pisirsuk  
conflict resolution  
through song

Food  
rules

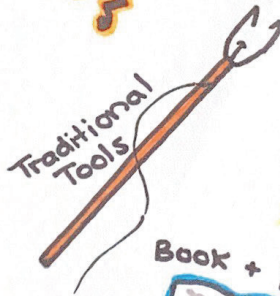
Tursurausik  
Kinship

ᐃᑦᐅᑦᐅᑦ  
Consensus

Exile when  
a danger...

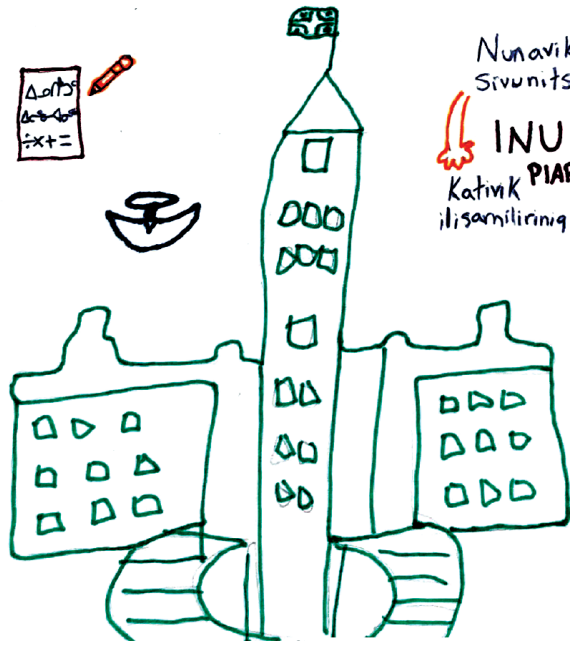
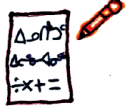
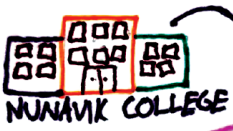
Karma

# Education Traditional & Western

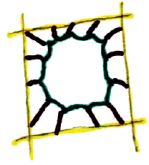


UNDRIP ARTICLE # 13.14.16

SUPPORTS: KI, Elders, NS, Makivik, Avataq



Nunavik  
Sivunitsavut  
**INUIT**  
Kativik PIARANGIT Makivik  
ilisamilitinniq



# ENVIRONMENT

***“ Inuit must regain control over their land within a self-determination process.”***

***“ Sometimes you never fully know who you are or the stuff you’re made of until you’re forced to fight for what you think is most important.”***

– Sheila Watt-Cloutier, *The Right to Be Cold: One Woman’s Story of Protecting Her Culture, the Arctic and the Whole Planet*

# Environmental Rights

I want/need our land back...

P<sup>o</sup> > P!!



UNDRIP article  
number 30-31-32-9

who can help?

The government of Canada

Makivik - Be our leaders + voice

K11 - Build proper education

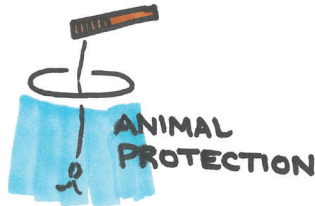
The right  
to have  
a say  
with what

happens to  
our land!

Inminiqirunnaniq  
Self-Determination

# Environment

## Land & Animals



UNDRIP ARTICLES # 10, 26 + 29

SUPPORTS: NLHC, NV's, Makivik, PARKS

I WANT / NEED....

SAFE PLACE FOR THE CHILDREN



Better buildings  
for the youth to do  
ACTIVITIES!

LEARN INUIT  
HISTORIES IN ALL  
HIGH SCHOOL IN THE REGION

BETTER  
EDUCATION

BETTER  
SERVICES

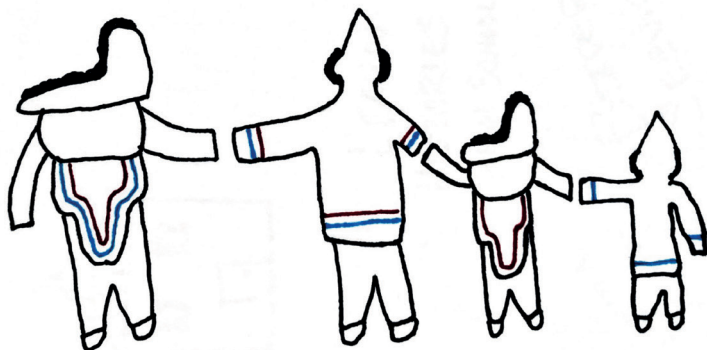
Mental Health.

# INUIT PRACTICES

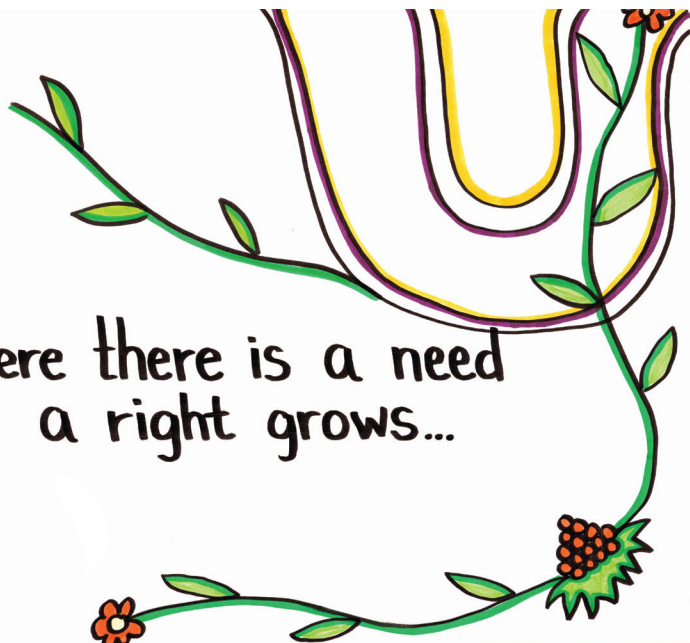
***“ All previous sections,  
on health, education and  
environment must be  
grounded into the Inuit  
practices and way of  
seeing the world. ”***



I want/Need...  
youth and elders  
CONNECT



Where there is a need  
a right grows...





# AGE



Article 7.2

Right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples.

Article 14

Right to establish and control their own Educational Systems.

Article 29.1

Right to Conservation and protection of the land.

Article 34

Right to promote develop + maintain their own institutional Structures.

UNDRI

oo 'b' b

Λ U a D

Culture & Ide

Educatio

Health

Environment

Self-Determin



Article 31.1

Right to maintain, control, protect + develop their cultural heritage and traditional knowledge.

Article 14.2

Right to all levels and forms of Education.

Article 24.1+.2

Right to traditional medicine and practices. Enjoyment of the highest standards of physical and mental health.

Article 26.1

Right to the land and Resources.

Article 18

Right to participate in decision making through representatives chosen by themselves.

# Notes

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# Notes

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# Notes

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# Notes

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# Notes

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## HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH QYC?

Now that you have more information and tools about your rights, keep being aware of your environment and brainstorm on ideas to improve it.

**Reach out to us to work together on solutions for a better future.**



## RESOURCES

### **The Text of UNDRIP:**

[https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP\\_E\\_web.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf)

### **The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA) :**

<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/U-2.2/page-1.html>

**The UNDA Action Plan:** [link to be provided when available- approx. June 21]

### **The UN Guide on UNDRIP for Youth called “Know Your Rights”:**

<https://un-declaration.narf.org/wp-content/uploads/un-adolescents-guide2013.pdf>

### **Justice Canada’s interactive website on UNDRIP ( includes videos and lots of information):**

<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/declaration/index.html>

