



Action Recommended

CBABC recommends that the B.C. government continue to advance reconciliation in tangible and measurable ways by collaborating with Indigenous people to ensure the laws of British Columbia are consistent with *UNDRIP* and *DRIPA*.

Implementing changes to our laws must also involve continued education and communication about why reconciliation matters and how changes to British Columbia's laws align with that goal.

Issues

As a long-time advocate seeking the implementation and adoption of *the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)*, CBABC applauded the introduction and passing of B.C.'s *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA)* in November of 2019. Since then, progress has been made on implementing *UNDRIP*, as evident in the *DRIPA Annual Reports* issued by the Declaration Secretariat.

CBABC acknowledges that there is no other Canadian jurisdiction ahead of B.C. in this work. It is complex, challenging and takes time. Time is required for meaningful collaboration with Indigenous peoples and across government ministries, and in ongoing training for government actors responsible for analysis, consultation, communication and change implementation. The monumental effort required should not be underestimated.

Progress must continue. The B.C. government can continue to fund the processes of education, collaboration and communication so that every piece of legislation and amending legislation meets this requirement.

It is also necessary that the B.C. government continue to educate the public about why reconciliation matters and how changes to B.C. laws for consistency with *UNDRIP* fits within the goals of reconciliation. Without ongoing education, the government runs the risk that implementation of legislation will cost as much as the efforts to achieve consistency with *UNDRIP*.



Why It Matters

The work of the Declaration Secretariat is critical to maintaining the confidence of Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in the government's commitment to meaningfully changing the experience of Indigenous peoples in British Columbia. Reconciliation requires acknowledgements of the injustices against Indigenous peoples and efforts to create a better future where the rights of Indigenous peoples are incorporated into the laws we follow and enforce.

Key Resources

[*Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan: 2022-2027*](#), Province of British Columbia (Mar 2022)

[*On Matters of Indigenous Justice in British Columbia*](#), Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch (Nov 2021)

[*United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*](#), United Nations (2007)

[*Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act: 2023-2024 Annual Report*](#), Province of British Columbia