**Haudenosaunee Statement**

**Concerning Canada’s Proposed Indigenous Rights Framework**

We send greetings from the Haudenosaunee Grand Council. We have gathered here to present a statement which has been agreed upon by the Grand Council of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy

Today, the Haudenosaunee are compelled to address the threat the framework poses to the inherent rights of the Haudenosaunee. The Crown’s government in Canada is once again attempting to move forward with a unilateral and cynical restructuring of the nation-to-nation relationship, which was established even prior to the formation of Canada.

Our relations with the British Crown began in the 1600’s and continue to this day. Many generations ago our ancestors concluded what has come to be known as the Silver Covenant Chain Agreement and the treaties of 1701 and 1768 between the British Crown and our Confederacy. Since the time that these treaties were agreed upon by both our peoples, the Haudenosaunee have never surrendered or relinquished our sovereignty or inherent rights to the Crown, or any subsequent Nation thereafter.

As was said by our ancestors, we believe through these treaties and agreements we stand side-by-side on Turtle Island as equals. Each of us possess our own nations; our own forms of governments; and most importantly we jointly hold the future of our peoples as sacred responsibilities.

The reality that exists today is the result of the relentless unbridled encroachment by settlers into our territories and unfortunately, the lack of the necessary political will on the part of the Crown and to curb this invasion.

The adoption of this so-called “Indigenous Rights Framework” is a violation of the principle of non-interference set out in our treaties and agreements. At no time has our government given permission to your Canadian administrators to interfere in the internal matters of the Haudenosaunee.

Further, this effort on the part of Canada is a clear violation of international laws and in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

It is the position of the Haudenosaunee that we freely determine that our political status remains that of a free and sovereign nations, consistent with this status the fundamental relationship we have with the Crown remains anchored to the treaties and agreements we currently hold.

Canada has routinely taken the position that they are not the successor state to any treaty between the Crown and an Indigenous nation and government. That position negates any efforts on the part of Canada to circumvent, abrogate, re-negotiate or otherwise change the terms and conditions of any such treaty.

That position necessitates the involvement of the Crown’s representative – the Governor General – to restore the fundamental relations between the treaty partners. This is a situation that has been resisted by Canada since the repatriation of their constitution but the tabling of this “Framework” creates a crisis in relations between the treaty partners. A crisis that can only be resolved by the necessary parties.

We have long deliberated on these matters, and have come to the resolution that as a free and independent peoples, we will not accept the new legislations which have been passed by the Canadian Government. Both S-3, and the matters covered in the proposed Indigenous Federal Framework Policy, are very concerning to us. We can see the impact it will have on our people, and we disagree with the approach that is being undertaken by the government to make these types of decisions on our behalf.

The Haudenosaunee shall speak for themselves, and we welcome the Governor General, as well as the Canadian Government to come to the table to have a more open and constructive dialogue as to how we can treat together on matters pertaining to our relationship moving forward.

For your consideration, we shall now share with you the statement that has been sent to the Canadian Government, as well as the Governor General.