



Ministry of  
Indigenous Relations  
and Reconciliation

# *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*

**Surrey Board of Trade  
Development and Land Use Team Meeting  
February 6, 2020**



## UN Declaration: B.C.'s Commitment

- All ministries required to:
  - review policies, programs and legislation to bring the principles of the UN Declaration into action; and
  - move forward on the Calls to Action
- UN Declaration sets out minimum standards
- Contains 46 Articles
- Self-determination is foundation

## The *Declaration Act*

- Developed in partnership with the First Nations Leadership Council
- Indigenous lawyers and legal experts contributed significantly
- Passed unanimously in November 2019
- B.C. is first province to pass such legislation



## *The Declaration Act, cont'd*

- Requires government to:
  - Align existing and future laws with UN Declaration
  - Develop and implement and action plan
  - Monitor progress through public annual reporting
- Acknowledges range of Indigenous governing bodies
- Enables decision-making agreements (with requirements, including stakeholder engagement)

## *The Declaration Act, cont'd*

- Does not give UN Declaration or its articles legal force and effect
- Enabling legislation
- UN Declaration as interpretive tool
- Does not create new rights
- Does not provide for veto





## ***Declaration Act and the Economy***

- Economic prosperity is key goal of the B.C. government and Indigenous communities
- Indigenous peoples as full partners in economy
- Builds on existing successes and partnerships already aligned with the UN Declaration
- Clear, predictable paths to work together
- Open and transparent engagement