



April 19, 2018

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
OTTAWA ON K1A 0K3

Dear Prime Minister:

I am writing to express the deep concerns of Grand Chief Konrad Sioui and the Huron-Wendat Nation (the Nation) concerning daily violations of the Treaty relationship as a result of actions taken by the Crown in the Nation's traditional territory, the Nionwentsio. The Assembly of First Nations shares these concerns and supports the Nation's call that your government take appropriate corrective action following discussion and agreement with the Nation.

On September 5, 1760, the Huron-Wendat Nation and the Crown concluded a treaty of alliance, peace, neutrality and mutual protection (known as the 1760 British Huron Treaty or the Murray Treaty). This Treaty seals the Nation-to-Nation and partnership relationship between the Crown and the Huron-Wendat Nation. The validity of the Treaty and the Treaty rights of the Nation have been upheld by the highest courts including the 1990 decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in *Sioui*. We are disappointed that action has not been taken to ensure respect and implementation of the Treaty in keeping with the constitutional protection it enjoys pursuant to section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and the rights of the Nation under international law.

It was disheartening to be informed in my meetings with Huron-Wendat leadership that the Nation's Treaty and territorial rights are regularly disregarded by the Government of Canada, and many of these problems arise from the application of the comprehensive claims policy which your government has now rejected. The continued application of this policy greatly compromises respect for treaties, particularly historic treaties, as well as the Nation-to-Nation relationship. I stress that no policy can take precedence over the sacredness and legal effect of Treaty.

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I urge your government to enter into serious Nation-to-Nation discussions now with the Huron-Wendat Nation, and with them, undertake a thorough analysis of the British Huron Treaty and the rights derived therefrom, so that the government may fulfill its constitutional obligations and comply with international standards, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration). The Declaration provides that "treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors shall be recognized and effectively implemented, and that States shall honour and respect such treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements".

The Government of Canada must give full effect to the Huron-British Treaty and recognize its sanctity by immediately ceasing to implement policies and decisions that violate the rights protected by the Treaty.

Finally, I support the Nation's call for the Government of Canada to formally recognize the customary territory of the Huron-Wendat Nation, the Nionwentsio, and ensure that the Nation is not dispossessed of it in any way.

Sincerely,



Perry Bellegarde
National Chief

c.c. : Grand Chief Konrad Sioui