

## The UN Indigenous Declaration

### A challenge for Canadians, an opportunity for churches

9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Saturday, May 20, 2017

Westmount High School, 4350 Saint-Catherine St, Westmount, QC H3Z 1R1

“All things are our relatives; what we do to everything, we do to ourselves.

All is really One.”

*Black Elk, Sioux holy man (1863-1950)*

#### INTENTIONS:

1. To increase interest in and awareness of “settler-vs.-indigenous” issues
2. To, in part, demystify the complexity of those issues
3. To define practical, achievable goals and objectives for all participants

Among its 94 Calls to Action, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission called upon...

- governments to adopt and implement the ID as the framework for reconciliation...[and] to develop a national action plan to achieve the goals of the ID (#43 and #44)
- churches, other faith and interfaith social justice groups to adopt and comply with the Declaration (#48)

0900 Coffee, croissants, etc.

0930 Prayer and welcome (Rev. Dr. Kay Diviney)

0935 Blessing and welcome to Mohawk territory, elder Kenneth Deer or his nominee, Native Friendship Centre drum)

1005 “Indigenous thought and practice – identities & realities” (Christine Jamieson, Concordia Theology professor)

1030 Break

1045 History and foundation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Kenneth Deer)

1145 Questions

1215 Participatory lunch each table discussing 2-3 clauses of the Declaration preamble

1315 Groups report on questions/comments on the Declaration

1415 Justice Canada – complexities (Liliana Cerretti, Legal Counsel)

1515 Groups discuss “practical, achievable goals and objectives for all participants” from five “actionable” articles of the UN Indigenous Declaration:

- #2. “Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.”
- #14.2. “Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.”
- #21. “Indigenous peoples have the right...to the improvement of their economic...conditions, including...in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining...”
- #23. “...indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.”
- #32.2. “States shall consult and cooperate in good faith...prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands...particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.”

1600 Groups report

1630 Church representatives

ANGLICAN: Anglican Diocese of Montreal

CATHOLIC: Brian McDonough, Director of the Social Action Office for the Archdiocese of Montreal

LUTHERAN: Pastor Jim Slack, Dean of the Montreal area for Lutherans

QUAKER: Allan Millar

PRESBYTERIAN: Stephen Allen, Associate Secretary, Justice Ministries

UNITED: Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Executive Secretary of Montreal Ottawa Conference

1700 Closing prayers – Kenneth Deer