



**ST'ÁT'IMC CHIEFS COUNCIL**

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June 19, 2025

Premier David Eby  
PO Box 9041 STN Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Via Email Only: [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Premier Eby:

**Re: Opposition to Bill 14, the *Renewable Energy Projects (Streamlined Permitting) Act* and Bill 15, the *Infrastructure Projects Act***

We write to you to directly register our opposition to Bill 14, the *Renewable Energy Projects (Streamlined Permitting) Act* and Bill 15, the *Infrastructure Projects Act*, and to express our serious alarm and concerns regarding your government's backtracking on its reconciliation efforts, specifically its commitment to substantive implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act).

As drafted, Bills 14 and 15 are deeply flawed.

Bill 14 would see certain projects exempted from key provincial permitting and environmental oversight legislation and grant expanded and unilateral authority to the BC Energy Regulator to make complex decisions with minimal oversight. Despite this, Bill 14 contains no framework for First Nations decision making or participation in decision making and places no obligation on your government to obtain the free, prior, and informed consent of affected First Nations. There is no consistency with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration).

Bill 15 goes well beyond expediting the approval and development of schools and hospitals. It is apparent that Bill 15 could be used to fast-track major extractive projects and has the potential to greatly impact our inherent and Aboriginal rights, title, and jurisdiction. We are not comforted by your government's commitment to consult First Nations on the development of related regulations after Bill 15 has already been unilaterally developed and passed. That is wholly inadequate and inconsistent with the Declaration Act.

You have to follow your own law. The Declaration Act is clear: your government must take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of British Columbia are consistent with the UN Declaration in consultation and cooperation with First Nations. By shirking your obligations under the Declaration Act, and circumventing related processes and guidance set out in your own Interim Approach on the Alignment of Laws (Interim Approach), your government has all but ensured that, if passed, Bills 14 and 15 will undermine our inherent and Aboriginal rights, title, and jurisdiction. Consequently, our confidence in your government's ability to deliver on its commitment to reconciliation is eroding.

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Bills 14 and 15 must be pulled back and time must be given to implement the Interim Approach – that is, to take necessary measures of consultation and cooperation – to address the concerns of First Nations around the province. While, conceptually, we support taking appropriate action to counter outside threats to our collective economic wellbeing, such efforts must be done in partnership and not come at the expense of the basic human rights of First Nations or sidestep your related obligations to us.

We look forward to you and your government taking prompt and appropriate action.

Yours truly,



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