HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

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Excellency,

I refer to your letter of 23 December 2016 and for the information provided in response to the Committee's letter of 3 October 2016 concerning allegations of threat of extinguishment of indigenous land rights of the Secwepeme Nation and the St'át'ime Nation in British Colombia.

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the Government in response to the allegations set out in the Committee's letter.

The Committee encourages your Government to continue to ensure that: (a) representatives of all Secwepemc bands as well as representatives of the authorities of the Secwepemc Nation are involved or at least are consulted about negotiations that may affect the collective land rights; (b) the right to free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples is fully respected whenever their land rights may be affected; (c) steps are taken to achieve agreements with Secwepemc and St'at'imc peoples with regard to their lands and resources claims.

The Committee would like to inform your Government that the above-mentioned issues will be discussed in the context of the consideration of its combined 21st to 23rd periodic reports, already submitted by your Government in May 2016, and scheduled for review during the Committee's 93rd session (31 July 2017 – 25 August 2017).

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of Canada, with a view to assisting it to implement the Convention effectively.

Yours sincerely,

Anastasia Crickley

Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Her Excellency Ms. Rosemary McCarney Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations Office Geneva

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