

# UNDRIP & DRIPA *in* BRITISH COLUMBIA

## What Residents Need to know & How to TAKE ACTION

### What is UNDRIP?

*The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)* is an international declaration adopted by the United Nations in 2007. The Federal government passed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (*UNDRIP*) and became law on June 21, 2021. Like BC's DRIPA all levels of the Federal government are required to ensure their Departments are consistent with UNDRIP.

### What is DRIPA in British Columbia?

In 2019, British Columbia passed the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA)*. This legislation commits the provincial government to "align" B.C. laws with *UNDRIP* over time.

However, *DRIPA* goes further than guidance. It gives the Provincial government authority to:

- Enter binding agreements without legislative debate, like the Haida agreement.
- Recognize Indigenous title and consent arrangements outside the long standing treaty process.
- These powers are being exercised without clear public safeguards, transparency requirements, or defined limits.

### Why This Matters to All British Columbians

Recent court decisions and government actions have raised serious concerns about how *DRIPA* is being used in practice.

#### Key issues include:

- Legal uncertainty around Land Title, Crown Land, and Resource management.
- Parallel land title systems, creating economic uncertainty for Municipalities, businesses, and residents.
- Negotiating land use agreements, like the Haida, with no public consultation.

The BC Treaty Process has created several Treaties that protect freehold land.

***Reconciliation is essential but it must be fair, respectful and transparent.***

### Recent Supreme Court Ruling

The Cowichan/ Richmond decision ruled in part:

- that 800 acres of freehold land was transferred to aboriginal title.
- that section 23 and 25 of the Land Title Act do not apply. *These sections give citizens the right to own land.*

The Government has offered to backstop the financial uncertainty with financial support. This decision creates economic and personal uncertainty. ***It needs to be vigorously appealed.***

### A Better Path Forward

- Repeal *DRIPA* and Sec. 8 of the Interpretation Act.
- Support the BC Treaty Process.
- Create an ***Independent DRIPA Task Force.***
- The Task Force will create a solutions based path to reconciliation and economic certainty on the land base.

### TAKE ACTION

Residents have an important role to play.

You can:

- Download letters, briefings, and action tools at: [www.KelownaCSA.org](http://www.KelownaCSA.org)
- Contact your MLA and ask them to support the Repeal of *DRIPA*.
- Support and improve the current BC Treaty process.
- Share this information with neighbours, family, and community groups.

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**Kelowna Citizens Safety Association**  
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