

IMPACT OF DRIPA LEGISLATION ON HFN

On June 21, 2021 the [“United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act”](#) (DRIPA) came into force in Canada. The Act does not make laws, it provides a roadmap for the Government of Canada and Indigenous peoples of Canada to work together to implement [the “United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”](#) (the Declaration) by outline processes ensuring legislation is consistent with the Declaration over time.

DRIPA requires Canada’s laws are consistent with the Declaration and the development of an Action Plan to achieve the objectives of the Declaration.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN) have begun a review of DRIPA and the Declaration to consider HFN’s interests and priorities for Canada’s DRIPA Action Plan. Engagement with Indigenous governments and groups are ongoing this Spring and an Action Plan is expected in summer 2023. Review and analysis are being done by a combination of HFN staff and consultants.

Potential areas of interests include:

- Self-determination and self-governance rights (*articles 3-5, 18, 27, 37*)
- Economic development rights, including water and fisheries (*article 20, 21-23, 26, 32*)
- Culture, language, and education (*articles 13-14, 25*)
- Access to health services (*article 24*)
- Implications of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) (*article 19*)
- co-management of resources (*article 18, 19, 29, 32*)
- Rights to effective and timely adjudicative and dispute resolution process (*article 40*)
- Potential opportunities where Crown financial support may be entitled as part of specific UNDRIP commitments (*article 28, 41*)
- Rights to access financial and technical assistance generally in ensuring the other rights are given full effect (*article 39*)

Proposed next steps include:

- Deeper and more comprehensive analysis on the potential areas of interests
- Additional legal review to further consider the impacts of UNDRIP and how it may affect the Maa-nulth Treaty
- Communications materials and/or tools to support the inclusion of HFN interests in Canada’s DRIPA Action Plan

(Note: This summary is focused on HFN specific interests and priorities. HFN has also provided input in collective submissions at the Treaty level through the Maa-nulth Treaty Society, at the Provincial level through the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations, and National level through the Land Claims Agreement Coalition)