



Human Rights Council, 55th session

Universal Periodic Review - Outcome of Canada

25 March 2024

(Introduction in Ojibwe) My name is Whitney Gravelle, President of Bay Mills Indian Community. Together with 50 Tribal and First Nations across the US and Canada, we submitted a report for consideration in Canada's UPR.

Our report highlighted how Canada is violating its human rights law obligations through its support for the continued operations of the Line 5 pipeline. The pipeline traverses Anishinaabe territory — passing through the Straits of Mackinac, the heart of the Great Lakes and the center of creation for our people. It threatens our way of life, as a spill would devastate our environment on which our culture and wellbeing depend.

Indigenous Peoples in Canada and the US have called for the pipeline to be decommissioned.

The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues called on Canada to decommission the pipeline and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples called on Canada to cease the pipeline's operations until our free, prior, and informed consent is secured.

Yet, Canada continues to support the ongoing operations of the pipeline.

Many UPR recommendations call on Canada to protect and promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples; to implement its climate commitments, including by reducing carbon emissions and phasing out fossil fuels; and to prevent human rights abuses by Canadian companies and ensure access to remedies from such violations.

Canada accepted a number of these recommendations, including ones to ensure Indigenous Peoples' right to free, prior, and informed consent.

We call on Canada to effectively implement these recommendations, which are consistent with its international human rights law obligations. Effective implementation requires Canada to withdraw its invocation of the 1977 Pipeline Treaty and decommission Line 5. More broadly, it requires Canada to phase out fossil fuels and ensure Canadian corporations respect human rights.

Chi miigwetch, thank you.