



REFERENCE: CERD/FU/GH/fm

15 May 2015

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in the course of its 86th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Canada, pursuant to Rule 65 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 16, 17, 19 and 21 of the concluding observations (CERD/C/CAN/CO/19-20), adopted following the consideration of the State party's combined 19th to 20th periodic report during its 80th session in February-March 2012.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State party, and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its 21st to 23rd periodic reports to be submitted in a single document on 15 November 2015.

Paragraph 16 of the Concluding Observations: The Committee welcomes steps taken by the State party to foster effective integration of African Canadians into the Canadian society and improve their access to housing, employment and public service. It commends its efforts in addressing the high level of dropout rates and achievement gaps affecting student of African descent. The Committee requests that Canada provide updated information with the regard to concrete results obtained through various measures aimed at enhancing the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights of people of African descent in Canada.

Paragraph 17 of the Concluding Observations: The Committee thanks the State party for the comprehensive response outlining a number of initiatives taken to address the issue of violence against Aboriginal women.

Her Excellency
Ms. Catherine Godin
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It however regrets that violence against Aboriginal women, including disappearances and murders, was still recurring. The Committee encourages the State party to carry on its initiatives that aimed at combating violence against Aboriginal women and girls by addressing its root causes such as the precarious socio-economic situation of Aboriginal women. The Committee further requests that Canada strengthen its efforts to produce a reliable statistical database on murdered and missing Aboriginal women.

Paragraph 19 of the Concluding Observations: The Committee commends Canada for intensifying its efforts to remove employment-related discriminatory barriers and for facilitating better access to health services and education for the Aboriginal people. It notes that this recommendation has been implemented and requests updated information and data on the progress of these initiatives.

Paragraph 21 of the Concluding Observations: While acknowledging Canada's efforts to promote and facilitate access to justice at all levels by persons belonging to minority groups, the Committee expresses concern at reported shortcomings in the judicial system for these groups, including limited awareness of their rights and limited number of court cases related to crimes perpetrated against Aboriginal peoples and African Canadians. The Committee encourages the State party to tackle any shortcoming in the judicial system impeding easy access to justice by persons belonging to minority groups in line with its General recommendation n° 31 (2005) on the prevention of racial discrimination in the administration and functioning of the criminal justice system. Some measures the State party may take include efforts to ensure an adequate representation of persons belonging to those groups among the ranks of the police, in the system of justice, including judges, and in other law enforcement departments. The Committee expresses its regret that the State party has no plans to reinstate the Court Challenges Programme or to create a specific mechanism that would replace it.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Canada, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



José Francisco Calí Tzay
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination