



## SENATOR PJ PROSPER

### FIRST 100 DAYS OF PARLIAMENT PRIORITIES

Indigenous issues and priorities cannot be placed behind other issues facing Canada today. If Canada is to take a strong, unified stand against shifting geopolitical realities that threaten to undermine our sovereignty and national stability, it must place Indigenous priorities front and centre.

We cannot be an afterthought and we cannot be forgotten.

A strong and healthy Canada needs to have strong and healthy Indigenous nations. I'm calling on the federal government and newly elected Prime Minister Mark Carney to ensure we continue to build on recent progress toward true reconciliation.



#### **Invest in the Indigenous Economy**

"Canada Strong" cannot happen without Indigenous peoples. The Indigenous economy is estimated at \$65B; a joint report with CCIB and GAC discuss five priority areas that need to be addressed to help scale-up Indigenous businesses. Issues related to Additions to Reserve, specific claims and land claim disputes must be settled in order for Canada to build out their economic infrastructure. Legislation is also required to enable Special Purpose Vehicles in order to unlock additional private equity for Indigenous ventures.



#### **Support Indigenous-led housing initiatives**

Though only 5% of the population, Indigenous peoples make up 35% of the unhoused population in Canada. Canada should invest in and support the growth of Indigenous-led initiatives, such as One Bowl.



#### **Re-introduce C-61 equivalent**

C-61, the *First Nations Clean Water Act*, died on the Order Paper in the last Parliament. It is the result of a co-development process; the passage of legislation to ensure access to clean water is required under the 2021 First Nations Drinking Water Settlement. It is also important for the government to protect First Nation water sources.



#### **Ta'n Etli-tpi'tmk (TEA) – Disability Payments**

Canada must finalize the ISC-TEA Contribution agreement as requested by all NS Chiefs to enable TEA to disburse pre-identified funding for Disability Income Support to clients in all 13 Mi'kmaw communities – support that is now overdue due to bureaucratic delays.



#### **Ta'n Etli-tpi'tmk (TEA) – Fiscal Relationship Agreement**

Canada must transfer the information pertinent to this self-government negotiation without delay. The information requested is based off of band-specific information the Chiefs authorized to be released from ISC to TEA on June 26, 2024. Continued delays are unacceptable and in bad faith.



#### **Follow through with the DFO external review**

In March, 2024, two young Mi'kmaw fishers were detained and treated inhumanely by DFO officers; an external review was announced on July 8, 2024. Mi'kmaw members of the review panel were announced in March, 2025. DFO must complete the tender process within the first 100 days of Parliament so that the review process can finally begin.



#### **Enable action on DFO's 2019 Reconciliation Strategy**

Canada must provide DFO with a flexible and enabling mandate to promote and recognize the concurrent application of Indigenous fisheries laws and management structures in the implementation of rights-based fisheries and develop plans for increased fisheries access including increased species allocation as well as infrastructure investment into facilities and capacity.