

December 1, 2020

Honourable John Horgan, Premier  
Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Finance  
Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations  
Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation  
Government of British Columbia  
Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC, Canada

Sent via email to: [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca); [EMPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EMPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca); [IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca); and [FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

**Re: Bill 41 – 2019: Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act**

Dear Premier Horgan, Minister Robinson, Minister Rankin and Minister Ralston:

We the undersigned investors, representing approximately \$1.1 trillion in assets under management, are writing today to congratulate the Government of British Columbia on the passage of Bill 41 – 2019: Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (“Bill 41”). As investors that believe environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues are material investment considerations, we welcome law that seeks to create certainty and a level playing field in respect of key ESG issues. In our view, Bill 41 is an important first step in bringing clarity to the Government of British Columbia’s aim to harmonize its laws and policies with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The legal certainty of a path forward sets BC apart from other jurisdictions, domestically and internationally, and provides greater confidence on the stability of this progressive economy and government.

The uncertainty created by inadequate or non-existent Indigenous engagement practices (corporate or governmental) is a material concern for investors. This uncertainty discourages investment and brings reputational and economic risks to investors seeking to align with global best practice in respecting Indigenous rights. In that light, Bill 41 sets a path towards mitigating a key material risk for investors, particularly those exposed to companies operating in the resource extraction and infrastructure sectors.

We commend the leadership shown by the Government and hope that success in BC will catalyze similar developments across Canada and even across the globe. The implementation of UNDRIP is a critical step towards a sustainable future and will ultimately lead to greater certainty for companies and investors. Bill 41 sets an important precedent along this path and one we hope to see emulated by other governments.

We understand the passage of Bill 41 is just the first step along the journey to implementation of UNDRIP and look forward to further developments. We urge the Government to honour the legal commitment to Indigenous governments as a right holder; ensure that all stakeholders are involved in working out the details; and, in that vein, encourage the Government to seek investor input in the process.

In closing, we once again commend the Government of British Columbia for its leadership in charting a path towards the implementation of UNDRIP through the passage of Bill 41. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this statement further, please contact Jamie Bonham at [jbham@neiinvestments.com](mailto:jbham@neiinvestments.com), or 604-742-8328.

Sincerely,

NEI Investments

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