



**Independent  
Media Arts Alliance**  
Alliance des arts  
médiatiques indépendants

Montreal, QC - Thursday December 20th 2012

Dear Chief Theresa Spence:

The Independent Media Arts Alliance (IMAA) and the National Indigenous Media Arts Coalition (NIMAC) stand in solidarity with you and the Idle No More movement. We thank and honour you and the Indigenous people in Canada for your strong leadership and resilient stance against this corrupt government. You have inspired so many of us to step forward and call for justice and for long-term sustainability for this land. We sent an open letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Governor General David Johnston calling for them to meet with you immediately.

The IMAA and NIMAC also recognize that Bill C-45 is a part of Canada's long history of discrimination and abuse towards Indigenous people. This most recent piece of legislation is a perfect example of how this abuse and oppression continues and it is completely appalling.

We underline the shameful position that the federal government took during the housing and infrastructure crisis in the Attawapiskat First Nation. This prejudiced approach perpetuates discrimination and ignorance by the broader Canadian population towards Aboriginal people. This is a very sad time for the media arts sector in Canada given that we comprise, in large part, of Indigenous artists and cultural workers across the country. We also represent Canadians from all cultural groups who share this vision in artistic and social consciousness.

Many of Canada's most accomplished media artists are Indigenous and are renowned internationally for their powerful depictions of the people and of the land that have shaped our own understanding of Canada, and Canadian identity. The IMAA represents over 12,000 artists and cultural workers across the country that in turn connect these art works with diverse audiences in Canada and abroad.

In our letter, we also urged the federal government to consult with First Nations to determine how Canada's governance structure can better include First Nations as sovereign stakeholders in all decisions affecting the country's land and resources on a permanent basis.

The IMAA is a non-profit national organization working to advance and strengthen the media arts sector in Canada. Our board includes representatives from all geographic regions in Canada as well as from NIMAC, which includes Indigenous representation from across Canada.

Sincerely,

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