



CAP NYC

Congress of Aboriginal Peoples
National Youth Council

YOUTH RIGHTS

COVID-19 is constantly drawing attention away from the ongoing issues facing the urban Indigenous youth populations. The disparity between on-reserve and off-reserve media coverage contributes to this. Overall, the progress for off-reserve representation had been pushed back.

COVID-19 has also taken priority as a funding area, and some other initiatives that were being pursued have been tabled. As COVID-19 persists, the lack of awareness around the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) implementation and accountability increases.

Without the ability to hold community meetings, there has been a breakdown in communication and community-based advocacy efforts around Indigenous youth rights. Unfortunately, a lot of the advocacy work that is continuing for Indigenous peoples and rights is done through an on-reserve lens, often leaving the urban and off-reserve Indigenous communities out.

UNDRIP implementation needed to progress further than it has, and Governments are responsible for carrying this work forward as the focus on COVID-19 is creating larger gaps in rights-based issues as opposed to using UNDRIP to lessen them. UNDRIP Article 3 should be considered regarding the right to self-determination and how this could translate into better program and service delivery. CAP's NYC will always continue to advocate for Indigenous youth rights and UNDRIP implementation.

Incarceration rates remain a factor of systemic racism in Canada that CAP will continue to advocate for meaningful reforms. Despite Indigenous adults represent less than 3% of Canada's population, Indigenous men represent 26% of correctional admissions, and Indigenous women 38%. Indigenous youth, through the many barriers outlined, are exposed to systemic racism in the judicial system at an early age.

The CAP National Youth Council (NYC) consists of provincial and territorial youth representatives from across Canada who are tasked with advocating for the rights, needs and interests of Off-Reserve Indigenous youth at the national level.

The CAP NYC is especially concerned with the socioeconomic factors that affect Off-Reserve Indigenous peoples in Canada. As a result, CAP NYC wanted to explore how Indigenous youth in Canada can get actively engaged in the policy processes that impact their lives, families and communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented Indigenous youth with unique challenges across the country. This website allows CAP to connect youth with resources and information to help them navigate this difficult time, while also maintaining a vital sense of community.