

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau Prime Minister of Canada c/o Office of the Prime Minister

80 Wellington Street

Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

Reclaim Indigenous Arts, an awareness initiative and call to action, is asking the Government of Canada to address historical and cultural marginalization of Indigenous peoples' agency in the arts. We request that the government implement policies to protect Indigenous cultures from appropriation and marginalization. Such implementation would thereby facilitate Indigenous peoples' full participation in the global arts economy, while simultaneously preserving their culture.

There is a direct link between the importation of internationally- made "Indigenous" items, such as dream-catchers, masks, totems, statues, moccasins, images and other objects, and the devaluation of authentic, Indigenous art.

When you were elected as the Prime Minister of Canada, you openly stated to your cabinet ministers in their mandate letters: "No relationship is more important to me and to Canada than the one with Indigenous Peoples." In addition, you adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in spring 2016, for which we thank you. Reclaim Indigenous Arts requests the immediate implementation UNDRIP; it is an essential step for the protection of intellectual and cultural property that will allow all First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities and artists to reclaim control and maintain agency over how their cultures are represented.

We claim that "Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs" as stated in article 11 of UNDRIP and signed by Canada. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present, and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature. We are asking your support in this call to action to put an end to cultural appropriation in Canada.

Thank you,

**SIGNATURE :** .....

**Date :** .....