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Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Office of the United Nations and
to the other International Organizations
Geneva

**United Nations Human Rights Council
16th Session of the UPR Working Group**

Geneva, 26 April 2013

**German questions and recommendations to
Canada**

Mr. Michael Herold

Mister President,

Germany welcomes the delegation of Canada to the second cycle of the UPR and thanks Canada for its comprehensive national report and notes with satisfaction Canada's remarkable human rights record.

Germany appreciates Canada's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2010 as well as Canada's endorsement of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In this regard, we would like to ask the Canadian Delegation what measures have been undertaken and what is further envisaged to implement the provisions of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Germany also commends Canada for the foreseen introduction of the First Nation Education Act and encourages Canada to pass this bill swiftly and to implement its useful provisions in a comprehensive manner.

Furthermore, Germany welcomes Canada's improvements on strengthening the legal and social status of women, especially through the Gender Equity in Indian Registration Act. We note, however, that some inequalities - such as the denial of aboriginal status to descendants of unmarried couples of which only one parent is of Indian origin - still would need to be addressed.

Germany is concerned about reports of an increased number of cases of violence against indigenous women. We encourage the Canadian government to further strengthen their efforts to tackle this issue, including through effective preventive measures.

Germany would like to offer the following recommendations:

- 1. Abolish all discriminatory implications of the Indian Act and grant women and men the same rights with regard to their aboriginal status.**
- 2. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT).**
- 3. Recognize the right to safe drinking water and sanitation.**

I thank you Mister President

