

On September 13, 2007, the General Assembly of the United Nations overwhelmingly adopted the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. This landmark declaration sets out the individual and collective rights of the world's 370-million indigenous peoples, calls for the maintenance and strengthening of their cultural identities, and emphasizes their right to pursue development in keeping with their own needs and aspirations.

The Conservative government of Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper voted against it, making Canada one of only four nations of 147 nations globally to refuse these basic rights and freedoms.

UFCW Canada – the United Food and Commercial Workers union in Canada – stands in solidarity with all First Nations Peoples in demanding that the Harper government live up to the standards set out in the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and reverse its position immediately. The dignity and respect we demand as trade unionists and social justice activists for our members in their workplaces is the same dignity and respect demanded and deserved by all indigenous peoples in the *Declaration*.

