HOW CANADA WORKS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

Canada is a founding member of the UN and is party to seven principle united nations human rights conventions and covenants(also known as treaties).

As a party of these treaties, Canada agrees to respect and ensure the human rights of all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, without discrimination of any kind to monitor how state’s parties like Canada are implementing and respecting their treaty obligations, each UN treaty has a corresponding “treaty body” of independent, impartial experts (usually called a ‘committee’).

Every four to five years, state’s parties must prepare reports on their progress of implementing and upholding their treaty obligations. Canada reports regularly to each treaty body and urges other states to also report. The reporting process involves collaboration and cooperation between all levels of government, First nations, and civil societies. The Department of Canadian heritage publishes Canada’s reports to UN for each of the seven treaties.

Canada also participates in the UN Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The UPR is a peer-review process in which the human rights