



- infringes on First Nations Aboriginal and Treaty rights and jurisdiction;
- does not provide First Nations the capacity to resolve MRP issues and relies on provincial/territorial courts;
- was drafted without direct consultation with First Nations in Ontario;
- ignores community-based approaches already developed by many First Nations to deal with MRP; and
- is contrary to the recommendations of the Minister of Indian Affairs' own Ministerial Representative, Wendy Grant John, on MRP, who tabled a report that stated unilateral, imposed federal legislation was not the proper way to proceed.

The NAN Women's Council ensures the on-going involvement of women in the decision-making process of Nishnawbe Aski Nation – a political territorial organization representing 49 First Nation communities within James Bay Treaty 9 and Treaty 5 territory, an area covering two-thirds of the province of Ontario.

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**For more information please contact** *Joyce Hunter A/Director of Communications 807-625-4952 direct line or 807-472-5638 mobile or Jackie Fletcher – NAN Women's Council (705) 255 1024 mobile.*



- The Bill's formalistic reliance on court orders creates the illusion of action on the MRP issue. However, it completely ignores the access to justice issues faced by most First Nation citizens, especially in the North. In practice, Bill C-8 MRP orders may be used mostly by non-Aboriginal people to acquire long-term property interests on-reserve. This unprecedented development will undermine the cultural and territorial integrity of First Nations.
- Local by-law making under Bill C-8 can only occur under a federally approved "Verification Officer" (VO). This is a throw-back to the "Indian Agent" of the 1950s. This is wholly inconsistent with federal recognition of the inherent right of self-government.
- Bill C-8 violates numerous provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. These include, but are not limited to, the following: art. 3 (Self-determination); art. 5 (Distinct First Nation institutions); art. 8 (protection against cultural assimilation); art. 22 (Special needs of First Nation women and children); and, art. 33 (Control of membership in accordance with tradition).
- Bill C-8 is opposed by many First Nation organizations. It is not about women's rights, but forces First Nations to seek recourse in a foreign and, in some instances, an inaccessible court system. The Bill is also inconsistent with First Nation self-government.