



## **Press Statement**

### **The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples is pleased the Senate passed Bill C-83**

**June 14, 2019** (Ottawa, ON) The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) is pleased that the cruel and inhumane approach to solitary confinement will cease with the passing of Bill C-83 - an act to amend the Corrections and Conditional Release Act.

Vice-Chief Kim Beaudin commented that: “Although the passing of Bill C-83 is an important step. There is a tremendous amount of work that must to be started immediately on the overrepresentation of our people in prisons.”

Currently Indigenous inmates represent 30% of the federal prison population while comprising 4.3 % of the population, with Indigenous women shockingly representing 44% of female federal inmates.

CAP’s nationwide constituency made it a key resolution at our 2017 Assembly to advocate for a national inquiry into Canada’s justice system and the policies relating to solitary confinement.

With the federal government implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s [Calls to Action](#) regarding justice. CAP is firm that restorative justice initiatives such as Gladue Reports and anti-gang strategies need to be much better resourced and implemented in urban and rural Indigenous communities.

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The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples is the national voice representing the interests of Métis, status and non-status Indians, and Southern Inuit Indigenous People living off-reserve. Today, over 70% of Indigenous people live off-reserve.