



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**STATEMENT ON APPOINTMENT
OF MARY SIMON AS GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA**

(OTTAWA, ON. July 6, 2021) On behalf of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP), National Chief Elmer St. Pierre offers congratulations on the historic appointment of Mary Simon as the first Indigenous Governor General of Canada:

“I would like to offer my sincere and heartfelt congratulations to Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon on her appointment as Canada’s 30th Governor General, but more importantly becoming the first Indigenous person to occupy this role. It is so important for our Indigenous youth across Turtle Island to see an Indigenous person in such an important capacity, especially for our sisters, daughters, granddaughters to see an Indigenous woman representing Canada. The significance of our Governor General making her opening remarks in Inuktitut is a special memory for us all and one that will not be forgotten”

“It is disappointing that the media chose not to focus on this Mary Simon’s historic achievement and instead directed questions towards her about a potential election, and her ability to speak French. Conversely, we are going to celebrate this important day and look forward to working together and building new relationships in this important chapter of reconciliation. As the Governor General herself stated:”

“Indeed, my appointment comes at an especially reflective and dynamic time in our shared history...To me, that means stopping to fully recognize, memorialize and come to terms with the atrocities of our collective past that we are learning more about each day.”

Once again, the Congress of Aboriginal peoples offer the Governor General our sincere congratulations as we celebrate the first Indigenous Governor General of Canada in 154 years.

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The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples is the federally recognized National Indigenous Organization that represents off-reserve status and non-status Indians, Metis and Southern Inuit Aboriginal Peoples. Over 80% of Indigenous people in Canada live off-reserve.

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