To whom it may concern,

Please accept this letter of support for Bill C-374, *An Act to Amend the Historic Sites and Monuments Act (composition of the Board)*. Bill C-374, which is currently before the Senate, seeks to advance meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and as such, we encourage the Senate to prioritize and quickly pass this important legislation.

This Bill seeks to amend section 4(d) of the Historic Sites and Monuments Act to include three new indigenous representatives on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, or HSMBC, one each for first nations, Métis, and Inuit. While section 4(d) of the Historic Sites and Monuments Act currently provides for one representative from each province and territory, and while there is an indigenous affairs and cultural affairs directorate from Parks Canada, as the Bill currently stands there is no representation of indigenous peoples, organizations, or governments on the board.

Bill C-374 would address this by implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's call to action 79.i, which calls upon the federal government to “amend the Historic Sites and Monuments Act to include First Nations, Inuit, and Métis representation on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and its Secretariat.”

We recognize that changes proposed in Bill C-374 address a specific aspect of reconciliation: the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives in the designation and commemoration of historic places, persons, and events. For this reason, we urge the Senate to send this Bill to committee expeditiously. The adjournment of Parliament in June is fast approaching, making it even more critical that this important legislation move through the Senate in a timely manner.

Sincerely,