

The Rights of Nature

Suggested Improvements to Bill C-37



OIDN

OBSERVATOIRE
INTERNATIONAL DES
DROITS DE LA NATURE

International Observatory of Nature's Rights

Mission

The International Observatory on Nature's Rights is a non-profit organization founded in 2018, whose mission is to promote the rights of Nature in Quebec, Canada and internationally. We work through three axes that are research, legal interventions and a global approach.



What are the Rights of Nature?



Legal Personhood: This framework legally recognizes natural bodies—such as rivers, mountains, or forests—as subjects of law rather than mere property or resources.



Inherent Rights: It grants ecosystems the right to exist, flourish, regenerate, and be restored from human-caused harm.



Guardianship: Because nature cannot speak in court, designated custodians (such as Indigenous nations or environmental groups) act as legal guardians to represent the environment's best interests and hold polluters accountable.



Core Rights of the River

The right to regeneration and restoration

The right to act in law

The right to feed and to be fed by aquifers and tributaries

The right to the respect of its lifecycles

The right to maintain its integrity

The right to maintain its natural biodiversity

The right to perform essential functions within the ecosystem

The right to be freed from all contamination

The right to exist and to flow





Rights of Nature in Canada

Alderville First Nation, 2025

Innu Council of Ekuanitshit, 2021





Bill C37 Suggestions



Signature _____

Date _____



SUSTAINING CANADA'S FRESHWATER FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

**Report of the Standing Committee on Environment and
Sustainable Development**

Shannon Miedema, Chair

Recommendation 1 That the Government of Canada centre Indigenous governance in freshwater management and policies.

Recommendation 8 That the Government of Canada establish a co-governance framework, based on the principles of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to guide the modernization of the Canada Water Act.

Miigwetch
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Chiefs of
Ontario

