Alberta government makes the *Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada* available to all students province-wide

**Ottawa, January 18, 2019** – The Government of Alberta has taken another step toward honouring its commitment to the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by providing all Alberta students with educational resources that reflect the perspectives of First Nations, Métis and Inuit. The province has purchased 1,600 copies of *Canadian Geographic’s Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada*, an excellent teaching resource that will provide both teachers and students with the opportunity to learn about the history and cultures of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

“I applaud the Alberta Government for making *Canadian Geographic's Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada* accessible to every junior and high school in the province,” says John Geiger, CEO of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. “The Atlas will certainly help Albertan students build a better understanding of the Indigenous Peoples in Canada, appreciate their contributions to Canadian society, and ultimately begin the process of reconciliation.”

The Atlas content has been produced in partnership with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), the Métis National Council (MNC), the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR), and Indspire. These partners represent unparalleled breadth and depth of knowledge, expertise, and strong ties to their respective communities and networks.

"The Assembly of First Nations is encouraged by the interest shown in the Indigenous Peoples Atlas across the country, and this latest move by the Government of Alberta shows it can play an important role in public education. We hope to build on this momentum and expand awareness and understanding of First Nation cultures and contributions in shaping Canada. We all have a role in reconciliation, and this resource can help educators, students, schools and communities learn from and tell the story of our shared history,” said Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde.

“Today’s announcement adds to the resounding success of the *Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada*. For the Métis Nation, this educational resource is a long time coming and the enthusiastic response of the Canadian public bears that out. I encourage other governments and education authorities to join us in ensuring that this important resource is available to students across Canada,” said Clément Chartier, President of the Métis National Council.

The *Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada* was created in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action, which cite the development of culturally appropriate curricula for Indigenous students as a top priority. Lack of appropriate educational and financial resources for Indigenous students in Canada has long been deemed a contributing factor to the marginalization of
Indigenous communities.

“We are thrilled to see the Province of Alberta embrace the opportunities provided by the Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada. The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation was deeply honoured to contribute to this resource we know will dramatically increase the quality of teaching in schools across the country,” said Ry Moran, Director of the NCTR.

“The Alberta government’s decision signals an understanding of the importance of reflecting Indigenous knowledge in all curricula,” said Roberta Jamieson, President & CEO, Indspire. “We are thrilled that Albertan students will have the opportunity to enrich their education by learning about our shared history and geography through the Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada.”

Book reviewers have praised the stunning beauty of the four-volume set, but it’s the written word that has hooked readers all across Canada. This ambitious, ground-breaking educational resource is unprecedented in scope, as well as in the level of participation from Indigenous writers and content creators. Canadians have been buying the Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada in record numbers, making it a national bestseller—no small feat for an educational resource. According to BookNet Canada, which tracks print book sales in the Canadian English-language trade market, the Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada was the #1 bestselling Young Adult Non-Fiction print book for 2018.

Media Information

Lee-Anne Van Buekenhout, MBA
Communications Officer
National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
University of Manitoba
Phone: (204) 230-1761
Email: Lee-Anne.VanBuekenhout@umanitoba.ca

Amanda Charles
Communications & Marketing Specialist
Indspire
Phone: (416) 987-0240
Email: acharles@indspire.ca

Deborah Chapman
Communications Manager
Royal Canadian Geographical Society
Phone: (613) 613-745-4629 ext. 160
Mobile: (613) 299-8995
Email: chapman@rcgs.org

Ke Ning
Executive Assistant & Communications Officer
Métis National Council
Phone: (613) 232-3216 ext. 511
Mobile: (613) 297-5193
Email: ken@metisnation.ca

Erin Brandt Filliter
Director of Communications
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami
Phone: (613) 238-8181 ext. 272
Email: media@itk.ca

Jenna Young Castro
Communications Officer
Assembly of First Nations
Phone: (613) 241-6789 ext. 201
Mobile: (613) 314-8157
Email: jyoung@afn.ca
Social Media Links:

Canadian Geographic Twitter: @CanGeo
National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Twitter: @NCTR_UM
Métis National Council Twitter: @MNC_Tweets
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami Twitter: @ITK_CanadaInuit
Assembly of First Nations Twitter: @AFN_Updates
Indspire Twitter: @Indspire
RCGS Twitter: @RCGS.SGRC
Canadian Geographic Education Twitter: @CanGeoEdu
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