

The Fireweed Project: Request to take the products of conception home

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Dear

My name is _____ I am receiving an abortion procedure scheduled for _____ at _____.

I am requesting to take the products of conception (the remains) home after my abortion. Please notify all relevant healthcare providers of this request before the appointment to ensure that a designated staff member is assigned to set these products aside.

As an Indigenous person in Canada, taking home the products of conception following my abortion strengthens my culture and traditions, in respect to health, by allowing me to fulfill ceremonial protocols with this material. I kindly request your cooperation in considering and accommodating this request in accordance with the Canadian Government's legislated *UNDRIP* rights.

On June 21, 2021, the Canadian government legislated *The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Act*, confirming the individual and collective rights of Indigenous peoples in Canada to maintain and strengthen their culture, identity and traditions in respect to employment, health and education¹.

I understand that there may be requirements related to my request regarding the transportation of biological material. I intend to cooperate with any regulatory procedures that your healthcare facility may have.

Thank you for your assistance, it is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

¹ Article 24.1 of UNDRIP states, "Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services."

References:

- United Nations (General Assembly). (2007). *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/U-2.2/page-2.html#h-1301627>
- Hayward, A., & Cidro, J. (2021). Indigenous Birth as Ceremony and a Human Right. *Health and Human Rights*, 23(1), 213–224. <https://www.hhrjournal.org/2021/06/indigenous-birth-as-ceremony-and-a-human-right/>

This letter was prepared by the research team on the Fireweed Project: Indigenous Peoples and the Right to Abortion.

