

# Thompson Rivers University Students' Union

805 TRU Way, Kamloops BC, V2C 0C8



President Lenín Moreno  
Presidencia de la República del Ecuador  
García Moreno N10-43 entre Chile y Espejo, 170401 Quito, Ecuador

July 10, 2020

## Help Protect Indigenous People's Lives Against COVID-19

Dear President Lenín Moreno,

On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union, we call on you to implement and prioritize an action plan to protect the Indigenous communities in the Ecuadorian Amazon from the COVID-19 virus. Due to the specific vulnerability that this population is facing, in combination with the crippling environmental effects of the April 7<sup>th</sup> oil spill and seasonal floods, we believe this is an urgent matter.

We are deeply concerned by reports from Amnesty International and the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon that there are 1215 confirmed cases and 622 suspected cases of COVID-19 within the Indigenous Amazonian communities. Because these communities face a scarcity of clean drinking water, food, medical supplies, health care and COVID-19 testing, they are at increased risk of being effected by the pandemic.

We believe that you have an obligation to investigate the conditions of these communities and to design and implement an effective action plan to protect this population from the COVID-19 pandemic. This plan must comply with human rights standards and should be designed with consultation from Indigenous communities to guarantee that needs are being met in a dignified and satisfactory manner.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "N Lane".

Nathan Lane  
Executive Director  
TRU Students' Union

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mackenzie Francoeur".

Mackenzie Francoeur  
Vice President Equity  
TRU Students' Union

cc. Ambassador Juan Diego Stacey Moreno, Minister Juan Carlos Zevallos López