

Membership Code Information Booklet

Background

The Squamish Nation Membership Code is our law that defines who can be a Squamish Member, and the steps to become one. It was originally developed in 1987, and updated through community engagement and referendums in 2000 and 2013. Due to Bill S-3 and several concerns raised by Community Members, we are currently engaging about potential new updates to the Membership Code.

About the Info Booklet

This Information Booklet can be used as a reference guide for Squamish Members and their families throughout the engagement process. The content is based on themes and questions we've heard from Community Members so far. Bring this booklet with you to ongoing engagement events to look up common Membership scenarios and keep track of your notes and questions.



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PROCESS

There will be many opportunities for Members to provide input on potential changes to the Squamish Membership Code.



In March of 2023, Council endorsed the Membership Code Update process, which will include information sharing, discussions with Community Members, collaborative development of referendum questions, and raising awareness leading up to a potential vote. Community engagement will take place in the fall of 2023 and throughout 2024. This process will adapt and change based on feedback from Community Members and other related projects.

FEDERAL LAWS & INDIAN STATUS

Squamish Nation defines who can be a Squamish Member, but the Government of Canada governs Indian Status, which is defined through the *Indian Act*. Recent legal updates to the *Indian Act* have impacted who is entitled to Indian Status, and led us to consider changes to our Squamish Membership Code. These bills are summarized below.

Bill C-31 (1985)

- Removed *Indian Act* provisions tying Indian Status to marriage
- Allowed women and their children who lost Indian Status through marriage to regain it
- Introduced the “second generation cut-off”
- Allowed Bands to control their Membership lists

Bill C-3 (2011)

- Further addressed sex-based discrimination in the *Indian Act*
- Extended Indian Status to grandchildren of women whose Indian Status was reinstated through Bill C-31 (under certain conditions)

Bill S-3 (2017/2019)

- The most recent amendment to the *Indian Act* correcting sex-based inequities
- Ensured great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren of women who lost Indian Status through marriage are entitled to registration (under certain conditions)

Bill C-38 (Potential)

- If passed, potential changes could enable the descendants of previously enfranchised people to regain Indian Status under the *Indian Act*.

SQUAMISH MEMBERSHIP TYPES

Membership Types

There are three types of Squamish Membership. All Members receive the same services and benefits. The key difference is whether or not they can pass Membership to their children.



DESCENDANT: passes Squamish Membership to children regardless of other parent.



LINEAL: only passes Squamish Membership to children if other parent is a Lineal or Descendant Member.



ACQUIRED: has married or been adopted into Squamish Nation, and does not pass Squamish Membership on to children.

Non-Member Types

The following three types of people do not have Squamish Membership but are referenced in the Membership scenarios:



INDIAN STATUS NON-MEMBER: Has Indian Status, and has Squamish heritage, but is not a Squamish Member. They may have gained Indian Status through Bill S-3.



INDIAN STATUS OTHER FIRST NATION: Has Membership in another First Nation and has Indian Status. Children may be Squamish Members depending on the other parent.



NON-STATUS: Does not have Indian Status, and does not have Squamish Membership (may be non-Indigenous).

Genders

The following symbols are used to show if and when gender is relevant.



COMMON MEMBERSHIP SCENARIOS

Descendant Membership

Descendant Members are defined in Section 5 of our current Membership Code. Some commonly discussed examples are below:

Section 5(d)

A Descendant Member parent and a parent with Indian Status from another Nation will have a child that is a Descendant Member.



Section 5(e)(i)

When both parents are Descendant Members, their child will also be a Descendant Member.



Section 5(e)(ii)

When one parent is a Descendant Member and the other is a Lineal Member, their child will be is a Descendant Member.



Lineal Membership

Lineal Members are defined in Section 7 of our current Membership Code. Some commonly discussed examples are below:

Section 7(b)(i)

A Descendent Member parent and a Non-Status parent will have a child that is a Lineal Member.



Section 7(b)(ii)

When both parents are Lineal Members, their child will also be a Lineal Member.



No Membership

Lineal Members are limited in how they can pass on Squamish Membership under the current Code:

A Lineal Member and a parent with Indian Status from another First Nation will have a child that has Indian Status but not Squamish Membership. (The child may have Membership in the other Nation).



A Lineal Member and a Non-Status parent will have a child that is not eligible for Squamish Membership.



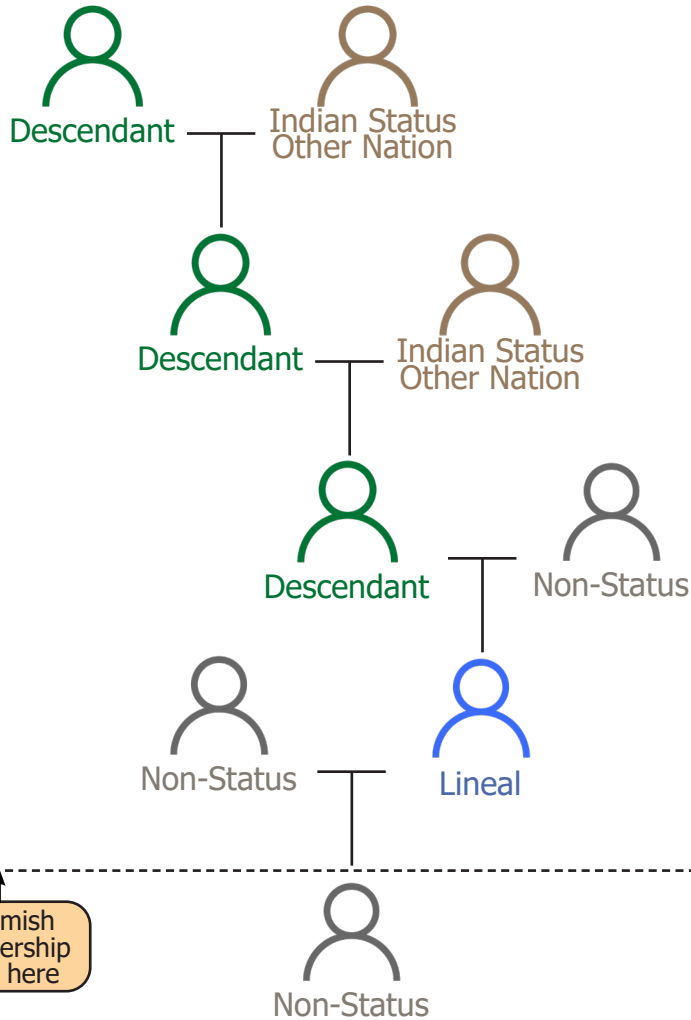
First Nation Heritage Recognition — Descendant

2013 Membership Code Referendum Question

First Nation Heritage Recognition Matter - A

Should we allow a Squamish **Descendant Member's child** whose other parent has Indian Status from another First Nation to be a Squamish **Descendant Member**?

PASSED



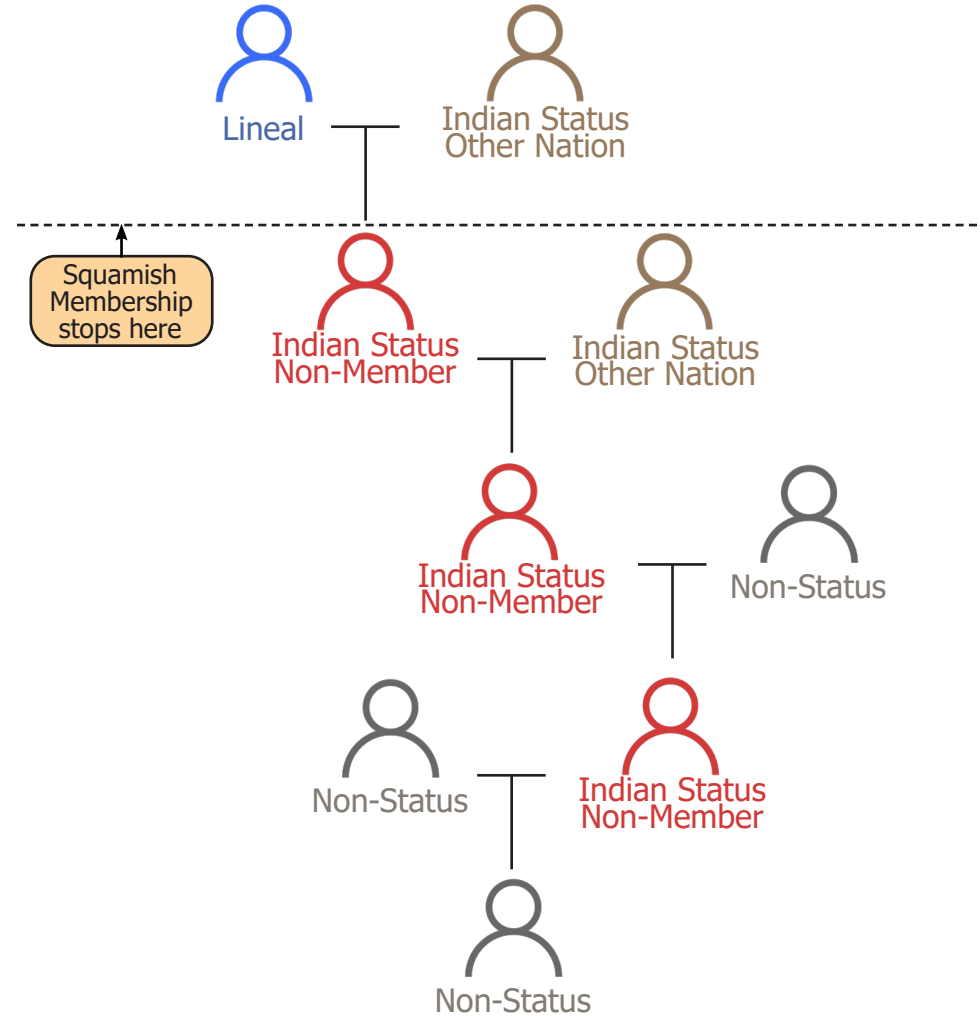
First Nation Heritage Recognition — Lineal

2013 Membership Code Referendum Question

First Nation Heritage Recognition Matter - B

Should we allow a Squamish **Lineal Member's child** whose other parent has Indian Status from another First Nation to be a Squamish **Lineal Member**?

52
VOTES
SHORT OF
PASSING

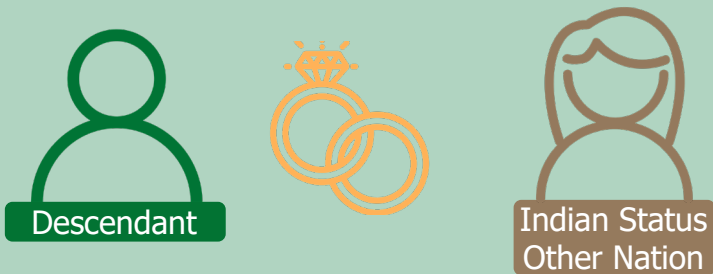


Gender Equality — Female Spouse

Membership Code Section 9(b)

A woman with Indian Status that marries a Squamish Descendant Member can apply to become a Squamish Acquired Member. Applications to become an Acquired Member are not guaranteed to be approved, and are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR ACQUIRED MEMBERSHIP



*The Status woman from another First Nation only becomes an Acquired Member upon approval from the Membership Committee

Gender Equality — Male Spouse

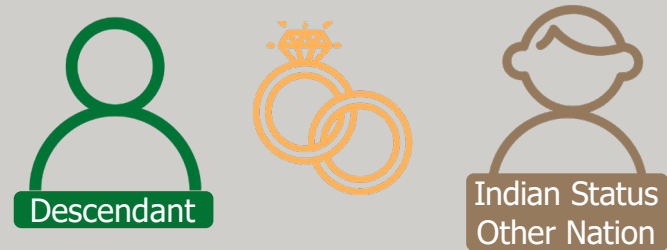
2013 Membership Code Referendum Question

Gender Equality Matter

Should we allow a **male with Indian Status** from another First Nation who is the **spouse** of a Squamish Descendant Member apply for Membership as an **Acquired Member**?

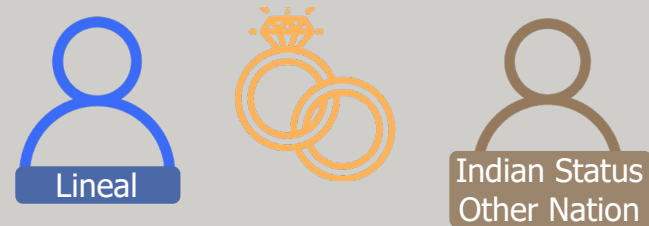
397
VOTES
SHORT OF
PASSING

NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR ACQUIRED MEMBERSHIP



Acquired Membership — Lineal

NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR ACQUIRED MEMBERSHIP



Bill S-3 Cousins Issue — Maternal Line

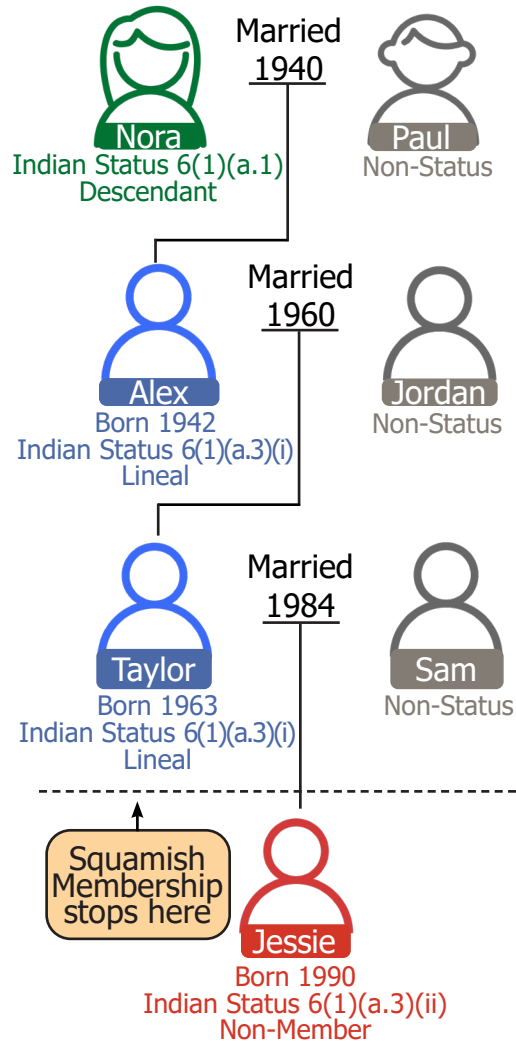
Due to gender discrimination at the time, Nora lost her Indian Status when she married a Non-Status man in 1940. Her Indian Status was reinstated through Bill C-31.

Bill S-3 addresses remaining discrimination impacting Nora's great-grandchildren.

Both Nora's child, Alex, and grandchild, Taylor, have children with Non-Status people. Under Bill S-3, their Indian Status is defined under section 6(1)(a.3)(i), and they have Lineal Membership under our current Code.

With Bill S-3 in effect, Jessie, Nora's great-grandchild, has Indian Status under section 6(2). However, Jessie is not entitled to be a Squamish Nation Member under our current Code.

Though Matt's great-grandpa and Jessie's great-grandma are siblings, and every generation has followed the same marriage and birth pattern, Jessie is not eligible to be a Squamish Lineal Member like Matt. This difference exists because our Membership Code has not been updated to reflect changes to Indian Status enacted by Bill S-3.



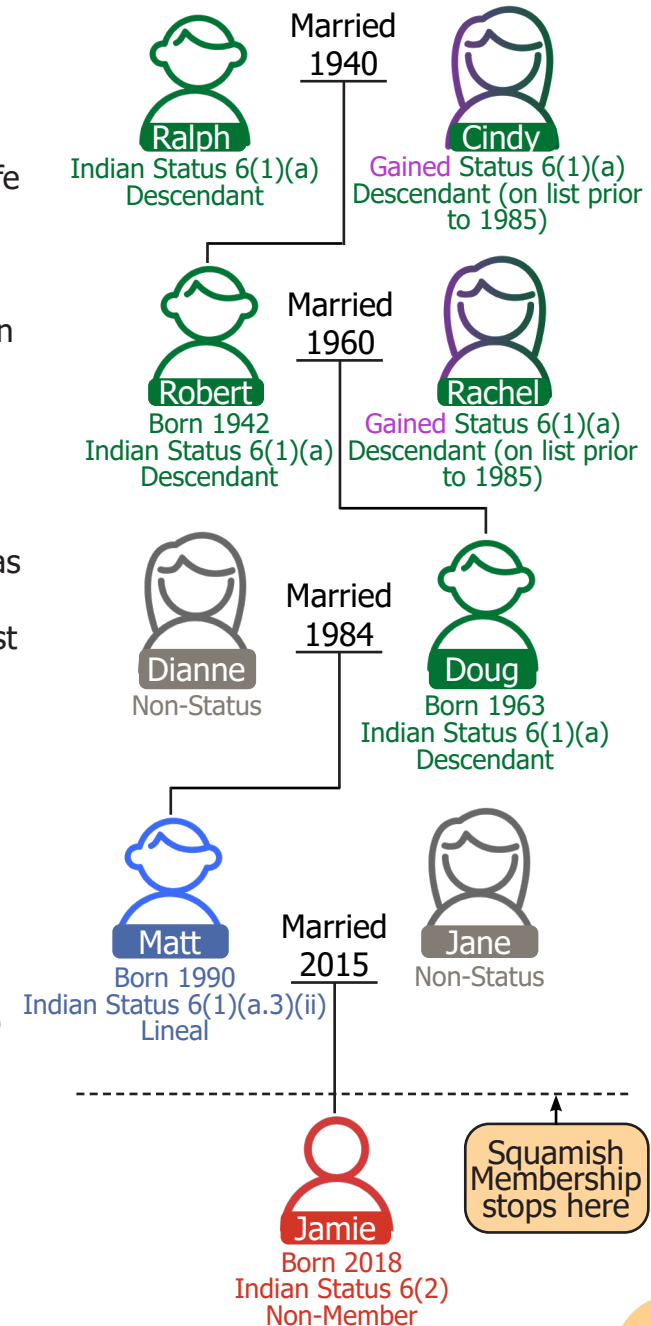
Bill S-3 Cousins Issue — Paternal Line

Nora's brother, Ralph, also married a Non-Status person, but he did not lose Indian Status. Instead, his wife gained Indian Status and Membership.

Their son and grandson both have section 6(1)(a) Indian Status.

Ralph's great-grandchild, Matt, was born after 1985 and has Indian Status under section 6(1)(a.3)(ii) just like Jessie. Under our current code, Matt has Lineal Membership.

With Bill S-3 in effect, Jamie, Ralph's great-grandchild, has Indian Status under section 6(2). However, Jamie is not entitled to be a Squamish Nation Member under our current Code.



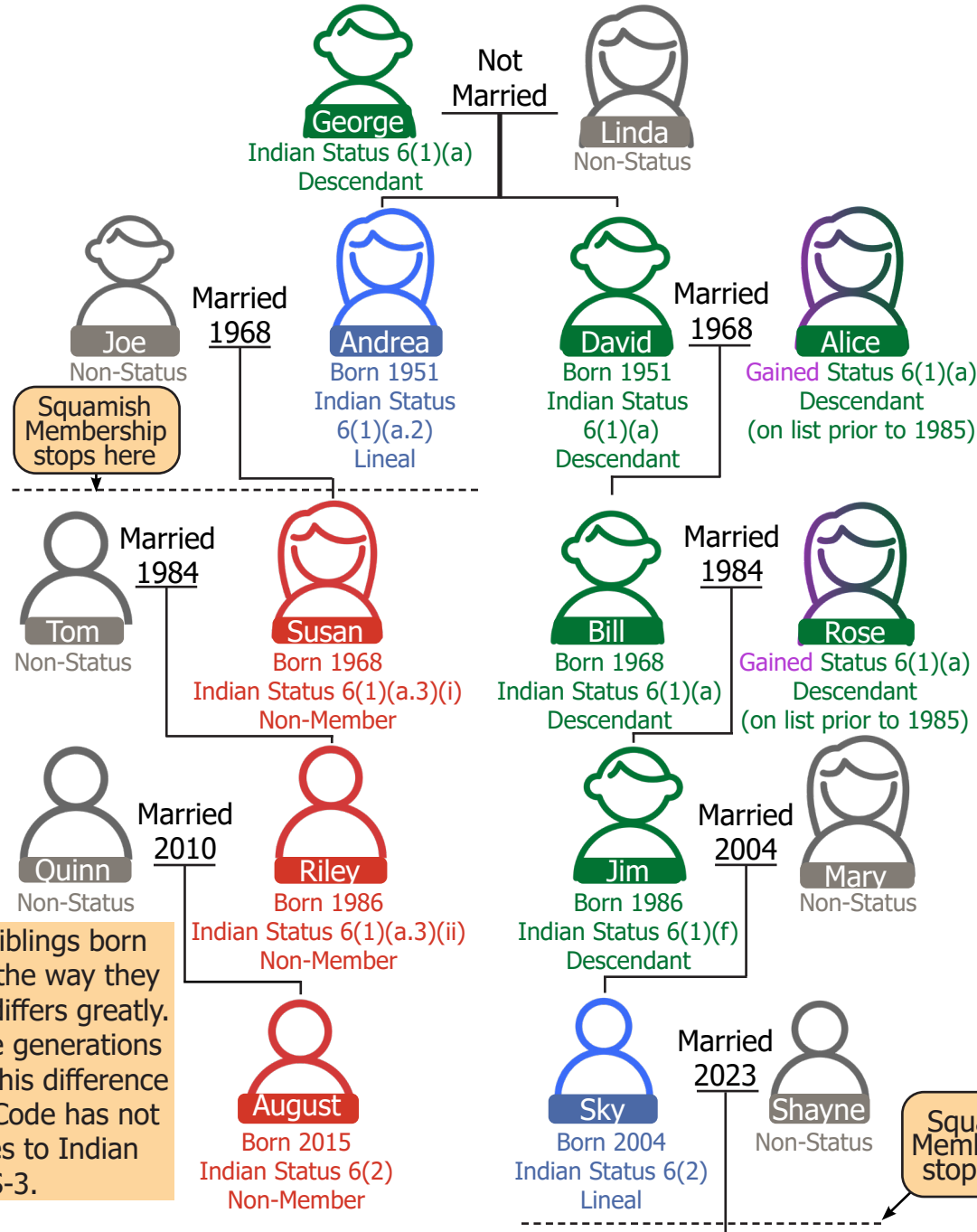
Bill S-3 Siblings out of Wedlock Issue — Brother

George, a Descendant Member, had twins with Linda, a Non-Status woman, without being married. Due to gender discrimination at the time, their male and female twins were treated differently.

When the daughter Andrea was born, she did not have Indian Status. Bill C-31 entitled her to Indian Status under section 6(2), and Bill S-3 now entitles her to Indian Status under section 6(1)(a.2). Under the current Membership Code, she is a Squamish Lineal Member.

Andrea's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren also gained Indian Status through Bill S-3 but do not have Squamish Membership under the current Squamish Membership Code.

Though David and Andrea are siblings born to the same unmarried parents, the way they are able to pass on Membership differs greatly. Membership for David goes three generations further than it does for Andrea. This difference exists because our Membership Code has not been updated to reflect changes to Indian Status enacted by Bill S-3.



Bill S-3 Siblings out of Wedlock Issue— Sister

Andrea's twin brother David is entitled to Indian Status immediately because he is male, making him a Descendant Member.

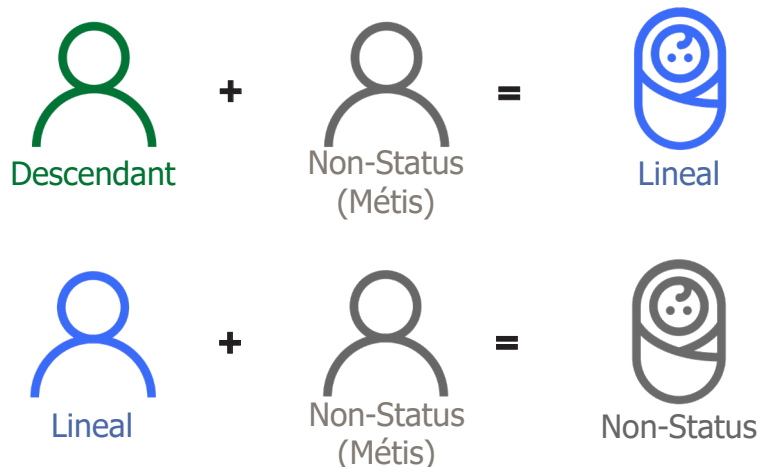
Like Andrea, David married a Non-Status person, but because of gendered rules under the *Indian Act* at the time, his wife Alice gained Indian Status and became a Descendant Member.

David's Descendent Membership is passed down to his son and grandson. They both marry Non-Status women: Rose gains Indian Status because she married in before 1985, but Mary does not.

David's great-grandchild, Sky, has Indian Status under section 6(2), just like Andrea's great-grandchild August. Sky is a Squamish Lineal Member, whereas August is not.

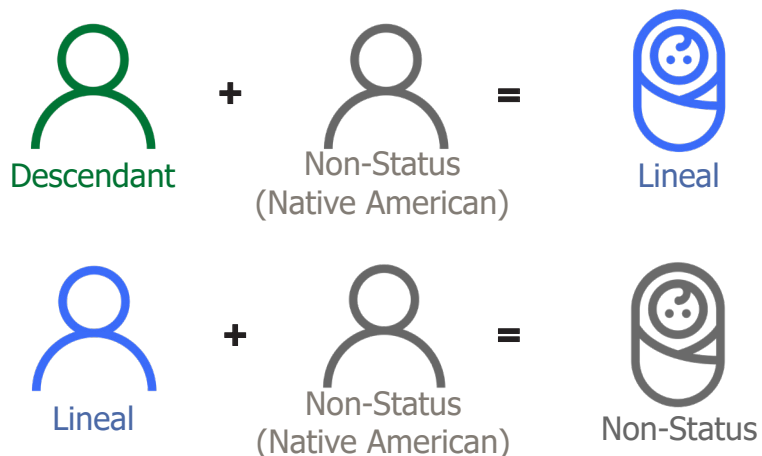
Membership with a Métis Parent

Though Métis people have constitutional rights as Indigenous peoples in Canada, they are not defined as having Indian Status.



Membership with a Native American (USA) Parent

If a Squamish Member marries an Indigenous person from the USA, they keep their Indian Status and Membership, but only Descendant Members can pass Squamish Membership on to children. This is because American Indigenous people are not defined as having Indian Status.



CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CODE INFORMATION

Application Process

Applications for Membership are provided to Ts'ixwts'ixwnítway - Member Services.

Decisions about Membership applications are non-political. Applications are reviewed and approved by Squamish Members through the **Membership Committee**.

In situations where applicants disagree with the decision, an appeal can be brought to the **Membership Appeals Committee**, also made up of Squamish Members.

Legal advisors are present at both these Committees' meetings to ensure they consistently follow our Code.

Membership VS Indian Status

Squamish Membership and Indian Status are not the same. Squamish Nation governs our own Membership Code and defines who can be a Squamish Member. However, the Government of Canada continues to define and manage Indian Status registration.

This means that it's possible to have Indian Status and not be a Squamish Member - you may be a Member of another First Nation, or none at all. Under our current Membership Code, Indian Status is a requirement to apply for Squamish Membership.

2013 MEMBERSHIP CODE REFERENDUM

Our Membership Code was last updated in 2013 based on the results of a community referendum. At the time, Squamish Nation had 2,608 Eligible Electors, and 50% + 1, or **1305 electors were needed to vote yes** in order for each question on the referendum to pass.

Here are the questions asked on the 2013 referendum and the results. (Language has been simplified slightly.)

Amendments Passed

	YES	NO	No Answer
Bill C-3 Entitlement Matter Should we allow an individual who has Indian Status because of Bill C-3 and who has at least one Squamish Member parent be a Lineal Member ?	1330	163	7

	YES	NO	No Answer
First Nation Heritage Recognition Matter - A Should we allow a Squamish Descendant Member's child whose other parent has Indian Status from another First Nation to be a Squamish Descendant Member ?	1319	172	9

Note: "No Answer" counts as a "No" vote.

Amendments Not Passed

	YES	NO	No Answer
First Nation Heritage Recognition Matter - B Should we allow a Squamish Lineal Member's child whose other parent has Indian Status from another First Nation to be a Squamish Lineal Member ?	1253	228	19

	YES	NO	No Answer
Gender Equality Matter Should we allow a male with Indian Status from another First Nation who is the spouse of a Squamish Descendant Member apply for Membership as an Acquired Member ?	908	578	14

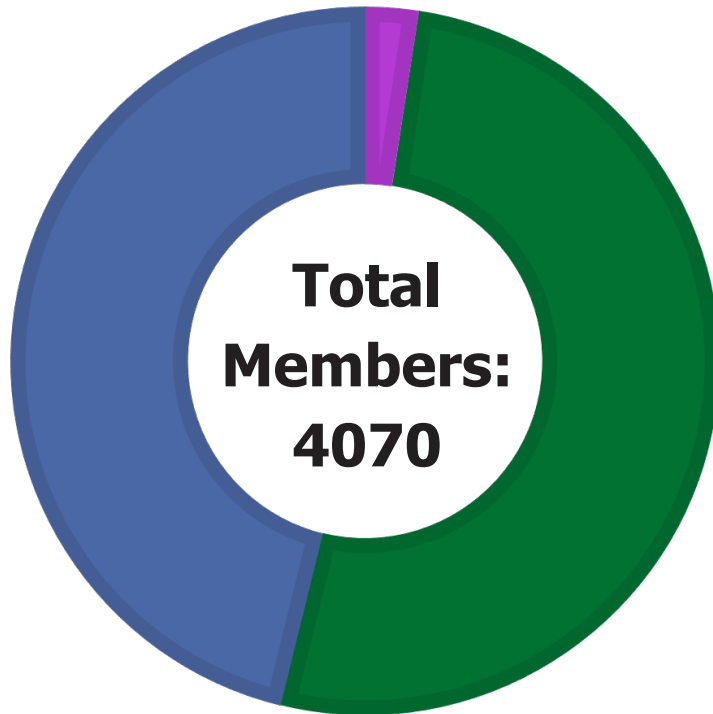
	YES	NO	No Answer
Amendment Threshold Matter Should we allow future amendments to the Membership Code to be approved by 50% +1 of those who vote in the referendum as long as over half of our eligible voters participate in that referendum?	999	490	11

Note: "No Answer" counts as a "No" vote.

SQUAMISH MEMBER DEMOGRAPHICS

Population

Our Membership Code impacts the size and growth of our Nation. As we start discussing potential changes to our Membership Code, it's important to understand the makeup of our current population.

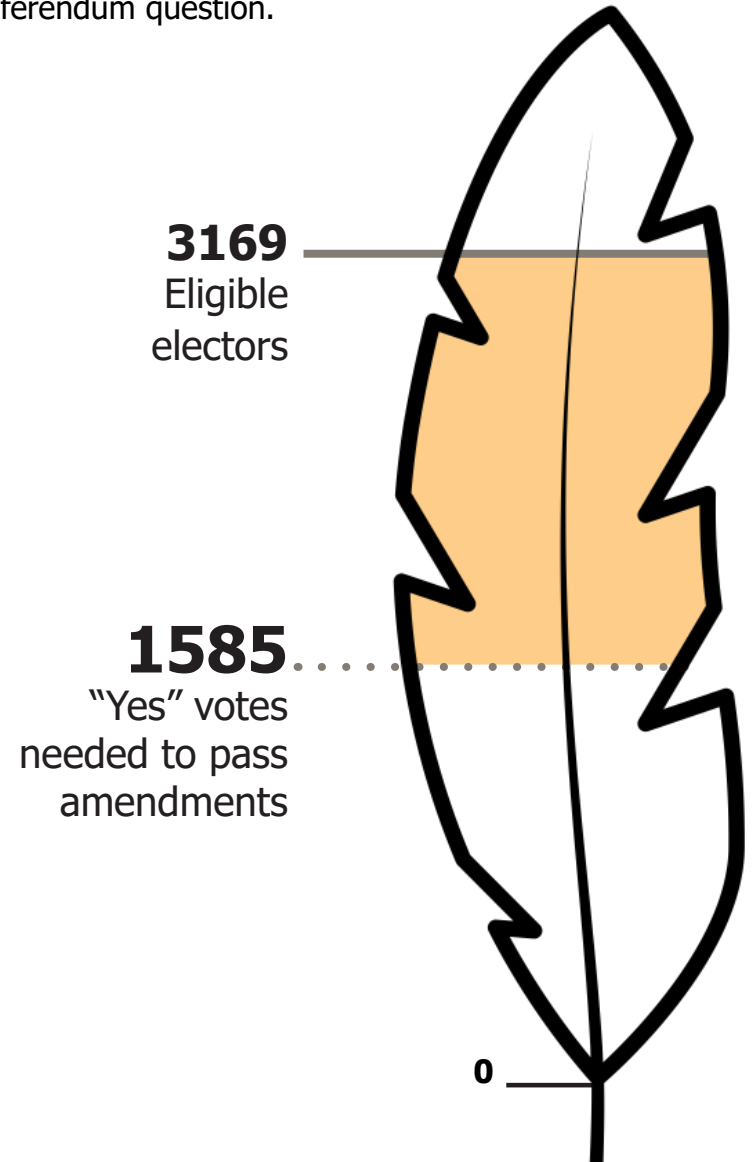


Descendant Members: 2087 (51%)
Lineal Members: 1874 (46%)
Acquired Members: 99 (2%)

(As of June 2023)

Vote Threshold

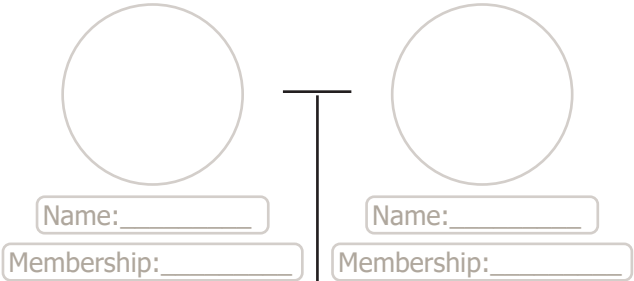
50%+1 of all eligible Squamish Electors are needed to vote yes for each question on the referendum to pass. We currently have 3169 Squamish Members that are eligible to vote (ages 18 and up) which means 1585 Members need to vote "Yes" to pass any referendum question.



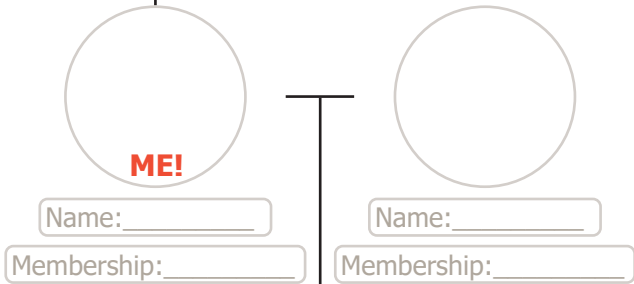
MY FAMILY'S MEMBERSHIP STORY

Use this space to create a family tree telling the story of your grandchild's membership.

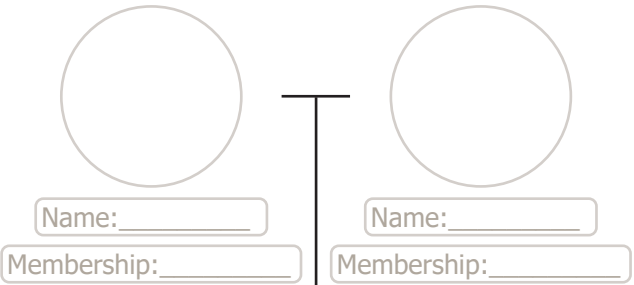
My Parents



Myself & My Partner



My Child & Their Partner

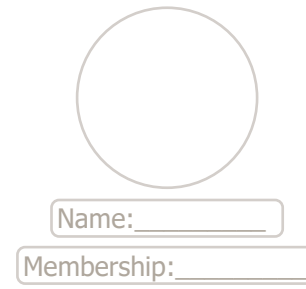
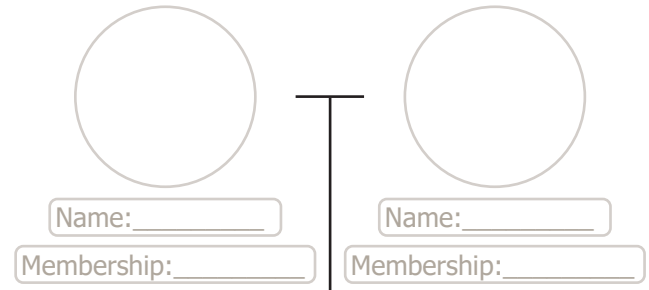
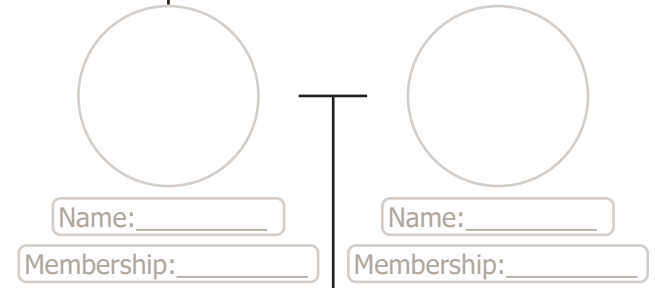
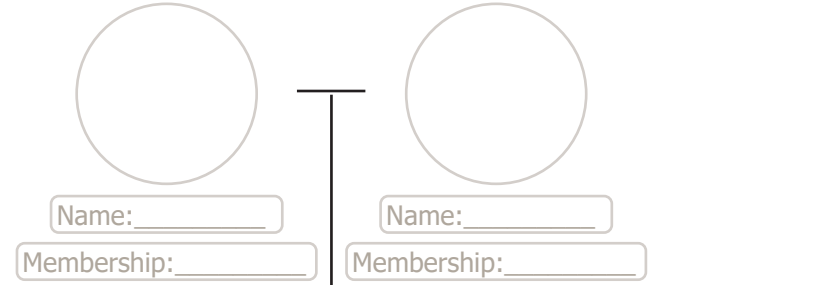


My Grandchild



OTHER SCENARIOS

Use this space to create a family tree for other children or family members.



NOTES

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Contact Us

We want to hear from you!

There will be many opportunities to be involved in this process. To stay up to date about upcoming engagement sessions, visit our webpage!

All Squamish Members and their families are welcome to share their voice.

Phone: 604-982-7610

Email: membership@squamish.net

Website: squamish.net/membership-code

