



Updates to Status Registration and the Squamish Nation Membership Code

as a result of Bill S-3

January 27, 2023 | Membership Code Newsletter #1

Background

The Government of Canada has made changes to the *Indian Act* to remove sex-based discrimination in status registration rules. This means **generations of people may now be able to apply for status**. Squamish Nation has an opportunity to **remove similar discrimination in our own rules** about who is a Squamish Member. **We can do so by engaging Members in a process to update the Membership Code.**

What is Bill S-3?

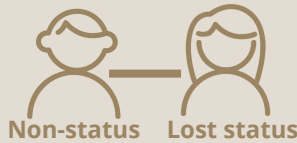
Bill S-3 is the most recent amendment to the *Indian Act*, which came into force in 2017 and 2019.

The changes extend status entitlement to descendants of women affected by sex-based discrimination dating back to 1869.

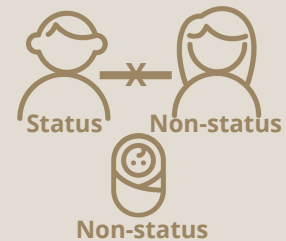
You may be able to eligible for status if:

Your mother, grandmother, or great-grandmother:

Lost status due to marriage before 1985

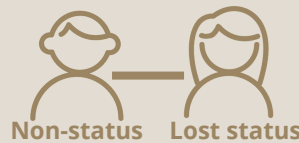


Was born outside of marriage to a Status father and non-Status mother between 1951 and 1985



Your parent, grandparent, or great-grandparent:

Lost status because of their mother's marriage before 1985



Had their name removed from the Indian Register because of their non-status father



If you think you might be eligible for status as a result of Bill S-3, contact **Member Services** for a Status Application.

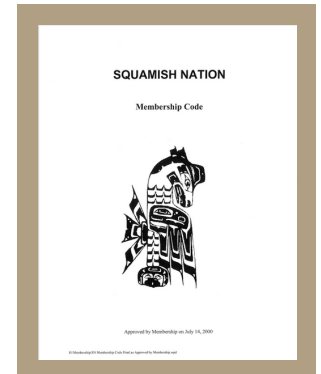
Phone: 604-982-7610

Email: membership@squamish.net

What does Bill S-3 mean for Squamish Membership?

Squamish Nation Membership Code

While the Government of Canada continues to define and manage status registration, the Squamish Nation governs our own membership list and defines who can be a Squamish Member. Our Membership Code lays out the rules and processes for becoming a Squamish Member according to our laws and traditions. Our Code was originally developed in 1987, and was updated in 2000 and 2013. Under our current Code, status under the *Indian Act* is a requirement to apply for Squamish Membership.



Updating our Membership Code

Members have raised concerns that the current Membership Code leaves some of our grandchildren and children unable to gain Membership, and have expressed the desire for the current Membership Code to be updated. The changes enacted by Bill S-3 open an opportunity for us to consider eligibility for Squamish Membership, and remove exclusive policies in our own code, based on Squamish Membership feedback.

Leadership of Membership Code Update Process

The project will be led by Ts'ixwts'ixwnítway (Member Services), with close support from the Membership Committee and Membership Appeals Committee, and guidance from Nexwsxwníwntm ta Úxwumixw (Council). Our process will begin early this year (2023). There will be opportunities for Members to provide input to influence any potential changes to the Squamish Membership Code.

Stay tuned for ways to make your voice heard in the coming months!

