

Membership Code 2013

Community Update

October 24, 2012



Charlene Williams speaks about the Membership Code and what it means to her family.

Uploaded 1 week ago 13 Plays / 0 Likes / 0 Comments

#vimeo.com/51538960



Descendant or Lineal? Does it matter? Maybe

Uploaded 2 weeks ago 15 Plays / 0 Likes / 0 Comments

#vimeo.com/51233787

Squamish Nation Membership Code - Update 2013

Created by Revision Creative PLUS 2 weeks ago

Squamish Nation Members discuss types of Membership and how it affects them in preparation for a vote in April 2013.

Unfollow Settings Share

BROWSE THIS CHANNEL

More stuff from 'Squamish Nation Membership Code - Update 2013'

5 Videos

1 Subscriber

1 Moderator

SHOUT BOX

Inspired to share your thoughts on Citizenship? Complete our online survey about the vote on updates to the Squamish Nation Membership Code... surveymonkey.com/s/Membership2013 by Revision Creative 2 weeks ago

Write something brilliant here
Post No HTML, but links are OK. Help

NEED HELP?

If you have questions about what's on this page, look here first: [Help](#) / [FAQ](#) / [Channels](#)

Timeline to Vote on April 4, 2013

> Fall 2011 - 1st Survey

Squamish members were surveyed at the Community Information Sessions, Community Forums and online. 91% said they wanted to update the Membership Code. While the original purpose of the meetings was to discuss Bill C-3, it became clear that Members would also like to look at how membership is passed onto children of two Native parents - whether or not both parents are Squamish.

> Spring / Summer 2012

- Roundtable Discussions

Meetings were held with small groups to share ideas and information that would help draft amendments to the Code.

> Fall 2012

- More Outreach Needed

It was decided that more voices needed to be heard and more members needed to be made aware of the process. A youth forum was held on October 21 that resulted in a core group of Members committing to help with the work of drafting the amendments. A 2nd Survey was set up online to gather Member opinions about where we should draw the line on Nation membership.

> Spring 2013

- April 4, 2013 is the Date to Vote

Over 1298 YES votes are needed to approve proposed updates the Code. Draft amendments will be shared for final feedback and direction from the community in January 2013.

Check out Code videos at:
<https://vimeo.com/channels/membership2013>

Share your thoughts on Membership at:
<http://surveymonkey.com/s/Membership2013>

Attend a Community Forum:
November 7, 2012 - Lunch Meeting with Elders / North Vancouver

Elders Squamish Valley - TBA

November 20, 2012
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Totem Hall

November 21, 2012
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Chief Joe Mathias Centre



Squamish Nation Registry
(Land and Membership)
ph. 604.982.8607
email. registry@squamish.net

How does the Code affect you?

Do you know what type of membership you have ?

Are you an acquired, lineal or descendant member? What about your children? It is important to know because it affects how Membership get passed down.

Allowing children with two Native parents (one Squamish and one non-Squamish) to have Descendant membership would increase the number of Descendant members.

Currently, there are more Lineal members than Descendant members. Agree or disagree on our online survey <http://surveymonkey.com/s/Membership2013>

Under the current membership code:



**1 in 5 babies born are considered Descendant Members.
4 out of 5 babies are considered Lineal Members.**

Figure 1

Currently there are 3,674 Squamish members.

This chart shows the number of members in each category of membership. Figure 3 shows how this changes by year of birth.

Prior to 1987 there were more Descendant Members than Lineal or Acquired. Between 1988 and 2000 the number of Descendant and Lineal Members born becomes closer.

For members born between 2000 and 2012, there are more Lineal Members than Descendant Members born.

As of October 2012, there are approximately 2044 Descendant Members, 1481 Lineal Members and 123 Acquired Members.

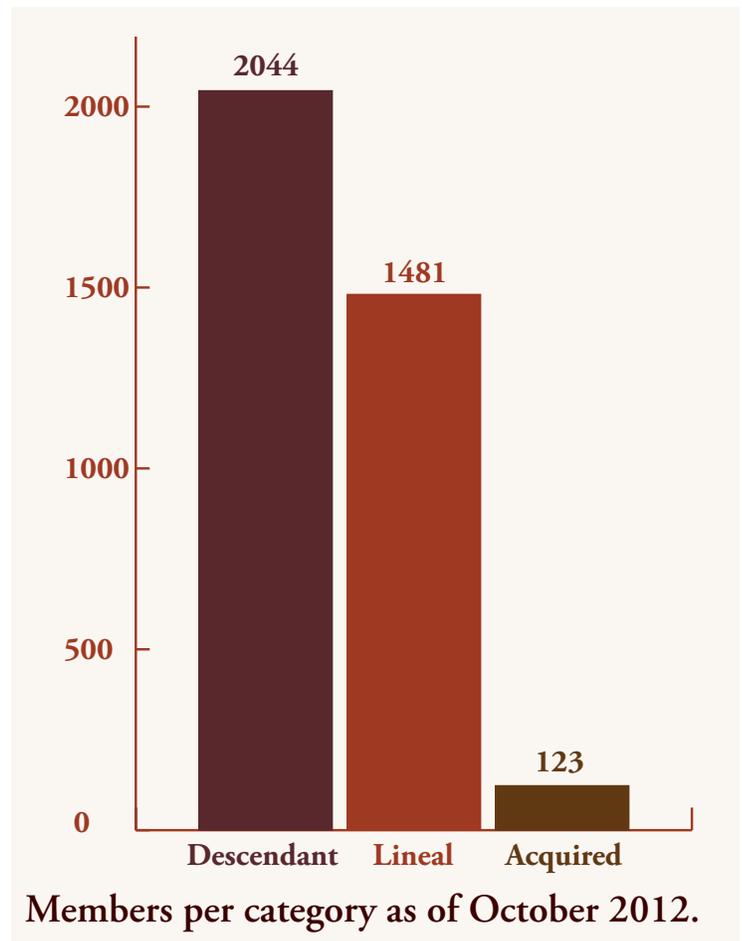


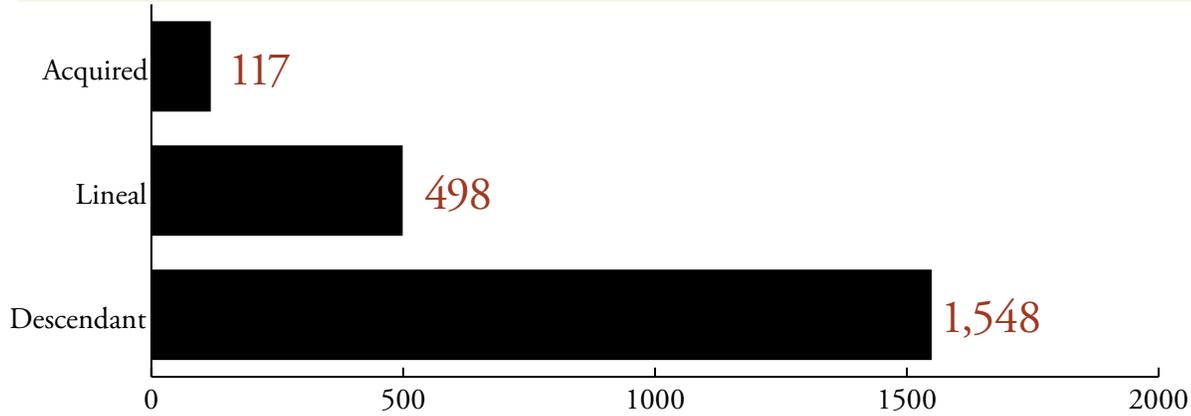
Figure 2

Members per category as of October 2012.

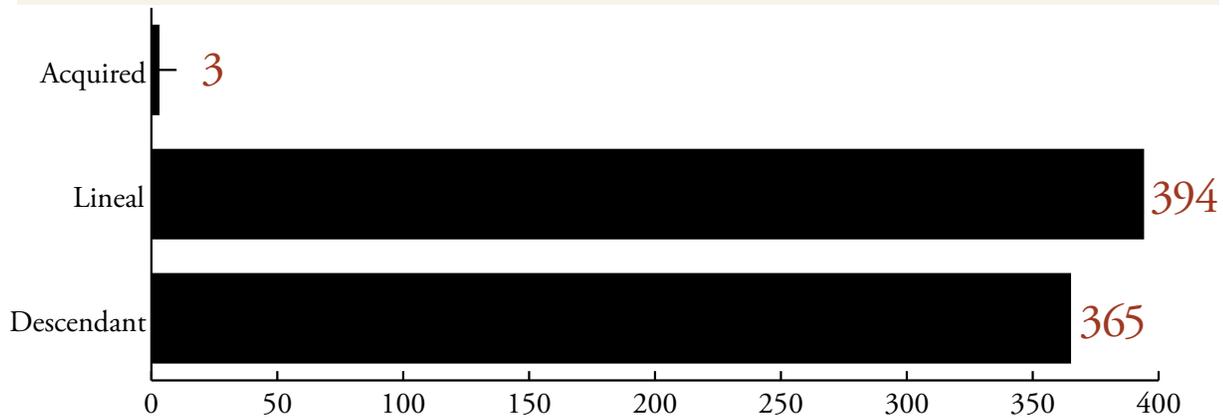
Membership Categories by Birth Year

These charts show how the number of members in each category is changing. With our youngest members, those born since 2001, the number of lineal members is much higher (600) than the number of descendant members (139).

Members born before 1987



Members born from 1988 - 2000



Members born from 2001 - 2012

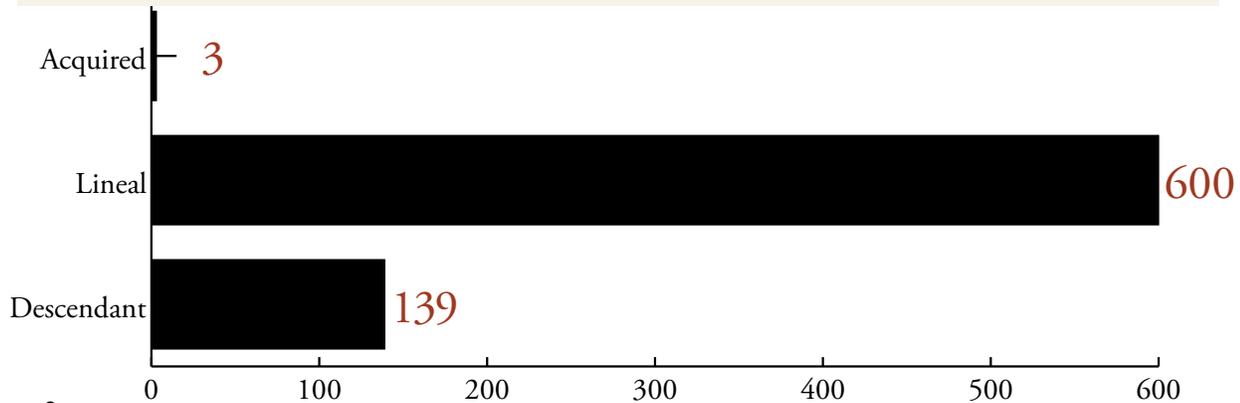


Figure 3



Key Issues

>> *expressed by community members*

Since January 31, 2011, at the request of Chiefs and Council, the Registry Department has engaged in a series of community meetings, round table discussions and communications with membership regarding Bill C-3 and other concerns regarding the *Membership Code 2000*. These meetings and discussions have been well attended with many points of views expressed and a number of common concerns raised.

Problems and Proposed Solutions

> *Gender Discrimination against descendants of Squamish Women*
- Bill C-3 entitlement

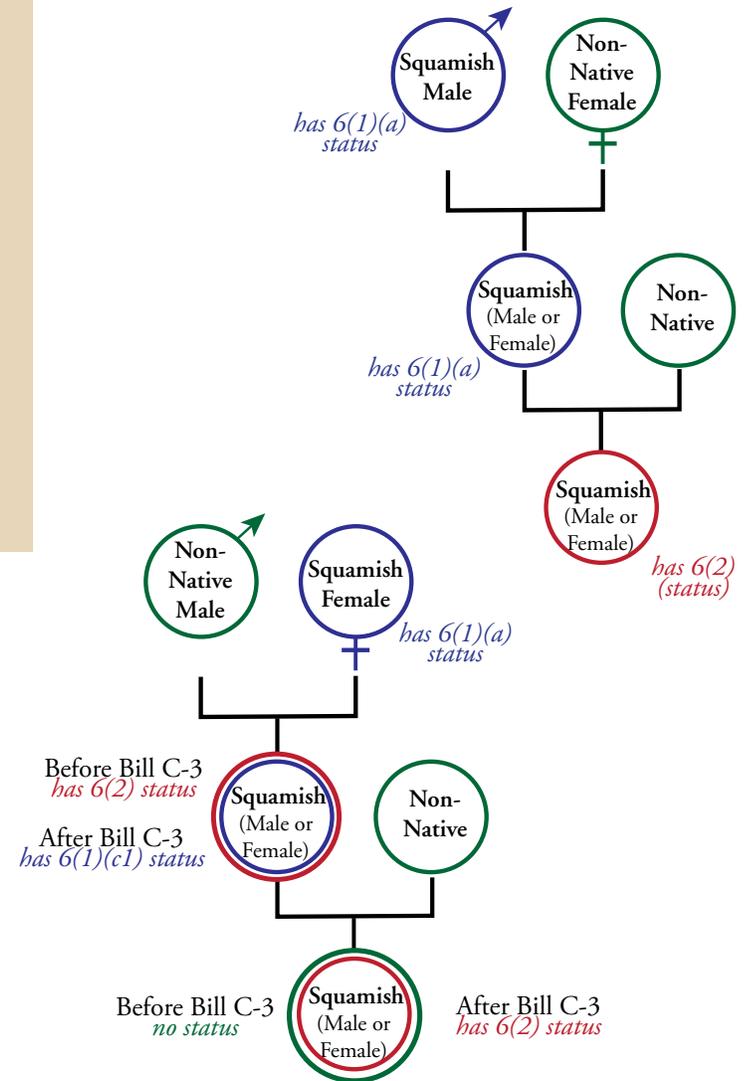
The majority of individuals in attendance at the community meetings and round table discussions have expressed a desire to amend the *Membership Code 2000* to reflect Bill C-3 entitlement in the Squamish Nation. Such an amendment is seen as removing inadvertent discrimination based on gender from the *Membership Code 2000* caused by the *Indian Act* model of entitlement.

For more information, background materials are available at <http://www.squamish.net/services/registry.htm>

Sample Questions Based on discussions with Membership, these are the issues that will go to vote. The actual questions will be presented in January 2013 for final discussion and amendment.



Figure 4 - Gender Discrimination re:Status before and after Bill C-3



Sample Question #1



Bill C-3 entitlement

Should membership be granted to people who have received Indian Status through Bill C-3?

> *Decreasing Membership*

- First Nation

heritage recognition

Membership has expressed a concern that the number of individuals able to pass on entitlement to membership in the Squamish Nation to their children is beginning to sharply decrease. A significant majority of those found to be entitled to membership in the Squamish Nation over the past 10 years have been Lineal members, who must have children with another member in order for those children to be entitled to membership. Many members enter into relationships with individuals outside the Squamish Nation because so many members are their relatives.

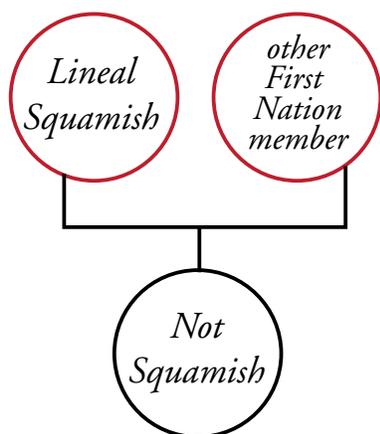
The proportion of Lineal members to Descendant members (the latter can pass on entitlement regardless of who is the other parent) is increasingly weighted in favour of Lineal members. The concern is that, within a very short time, the rate of growth for the Squamish Nation will be negative and the Squamish Nation will experience a declining population, with its related decrease in government funding. Amending the *Membership Code 2000* to include First Nation heritage recognition would alleviate this concern.



Sample Question #2

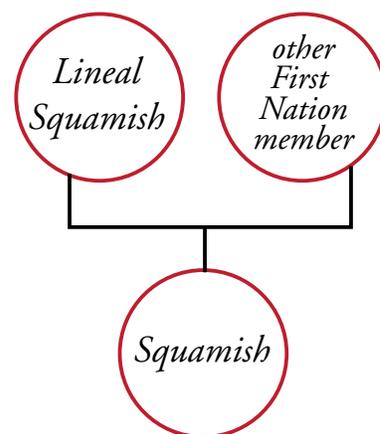
First Nation heritage recognition
Should members with a Squamish parent and a First Nations parent be considered Descendant members who are able to pass on Squamish membership?

Figure 5 - **Recognition of First Nations heritage in determining entitlement to, and the ability to pass on, Squamish Nation Membership**



under current code

Vote could change the Code to allow members with one Squamish parent and one First Nations (non-Squamish) parent to pass on Membership. Currently, they cannot pass on Squamish Membership.



update to be voted on

> *Gender Discrimination against First Nations Men*

- 9(b) First Nation men marrying in

Section 9(b) provides that only First Nation females (without Squamish heritage) who marry a Descendant member are entitled to become Acquired members under that section. First Nation men (without Squamish heritage) who marry a Descendant member are not entitled to become Acquired members under section 9(b). This is different treatment based solely on gender. Consideration should be given to amending the Membership Code to allow First Nations men, as well as women, to apply to be Acquired members under this section.

> *1298 votes are needed to make any changes to the Code*

- Amendment threshold

The approval threshold for amendments to the *Membership Code 2000* means that, since there are approximately 2,595 eligible voters, 1,298 must actually vote in favour of an amendment for it to be approved. Typically, the total number of members who vote in Squamish elections is less than this threshold.

If the same is true in a referendum, even if 100% of those who vote were in favour of the amendment, it still would not be approved since it would fail to meet the threshold of 50%+1 of the eligible voters. This threshold makes it very difficult, if not impossible, to bring about any changes to the *Membership Code 2000*. It must be noted that any changes approved by a referendum to the Amendment threshold will only apply to subsequent amendments to the *Membership Code 2000*.



Sample Question #3

First Nation Men - Should First Nation men (without Squamish Heritage) be allowed to Acquire membership?

Sample Question #4

The Number of Votes Needed - Should we adjust the number of votes needed to update the Membership Code?



There have been two different approaches for dealing with similar matters. One option is to maintain the higher threshold for the first vote but if, in the first vote, more than 50% of those who vote are in favour, a second vote is held and, if 50% of the eligible voters participate in the second vote and 50%+1 of those who vote are in favour, the matter is approved. This option often requires two votes to be held when there is low voter turnout for the first vote, with the associated costs of holding two votes. The second option is to simply set the voting threshold to that of the second vote in the first option: if 50% of the eligible voters participate in the vote and 50%+1 of those who vote are in favour, the matter is approved with only one vote.

Population Growth Data

The average yearly growth rate, based on data from 1976 to 2009, is 3.5%. But if you measured from 1998 to 2009 the average yearly growth rate is 2%. The following chart shows the total population by year, and residence, as well as the yearly growth rate from 1976 to 2009.

Year	Total Population	Yearly Growth Rate	On-Reserve	Off-Reserve
1976	1225		979	246
1977	1265	3.3	1006	259
1978	1273	0.6	1105	168
1979	1290	1.3	1123	167
1980	1323	2.6	1147	176
1981	1361	2.9	1191	170
1982	1394	2.4	1214	180
1983	1440	3.3	1252	188
1984	1465	1.7	1274	191
1985	1558	6.3	1337	221
1986	1724	10.7	1362	362
1987	1841	6.8	1393	448
1988	2081	13	1428	653
1989	2131	2.4	1450	681
1990	2231	4.7	1486	745
1991	2352	5.4	1546	806
1992	2499	6.3	1610	889
1993	2601	4.1	1651	950
1994	2725	4.8	1695	1030
1995	2836	4.1	1706	1130
1996	2875	1.4	1694	1181
1997	2921	1.6	1707	1214
1998	2959	1.3	1942	1217
1999	3046	2.9	2026	1020
2000	3150	3.4	2064	1086
2001	3223	2.3	2085	1138
2002	3269	1.4	2166	1103
2003	3353	2.6	2308	1045
2004	3410	1.5	2330	1080
2005	3463	1.5	2338	1125
2006	3530	1.9	2269	1261
2007	3592	1.8	2385	1207
2008	3646	1.5	2395	1251
2009	3685	1.1	2405	1280

Of the 762 Members
born between
1988 and 2000:
52% are Lineal
48% are Descendant

Of the 742 Members
born between
2001 and 2012:
81% are Lineal
19% are Descendant

*Make Changes.
Affect the Code.
Vote 2013.*

Figure 6