

Membership Code 2011

- A Squamish Response to Bill C-3

Issue One : February 7, 2011

This bulletin is the beginning of a process to amend our Membership Code. The first phase is designed to help you understand Bill C-3 and apply for your Indian Status from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).

The second phase, to be addressed in Spring 2011, is to consult with Squamish Nation Membership on how to address gender equity in our Membership Codes.

If you, or someone you know, would like to receive more information and be included in the dialogue, please join our contact list at www.squamish.net/services/membership2011.html



Squamish Nation Registry (Land and Membership)

Email: registrydepartment@squamish.net
Phone: 604-982-8607
Fax: 604-980-6818
Toll Free: 1-877-628-2288

As of January 31, 2011, A New Generation is Eligible to Apply for Indian Status

Bill-C (*Gender Equity in Indian Registration Act*) is the result of Sharon McIvor's legal victory over sexual discrimination in the *Indian Act*. As of January 31, 2011, **all eligible grandchildren of women who lost status as a result of marrying non-Indian men become entitled to Indian Status.**

Applications for Indian Status must be approved by INAC (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada) before applying for Nation Membership.

Application forms are available through INAC's website, the INAC Call Centre, INAC Regional Offices and Service Canada Centres. Squamish Nation Registry can mail you an application package if you cannot access these outlets.

Please note: You must mail in your original long form birth certificate to the address provided by INAC on the application form. Photocopies will not be accepted. (See page two of this bulletin for a complete list of required documents.) It may take a month to have your ID returned and six months to have your application processed.

If you would like to download the application form, go to www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/br/frms/index-eng.asp

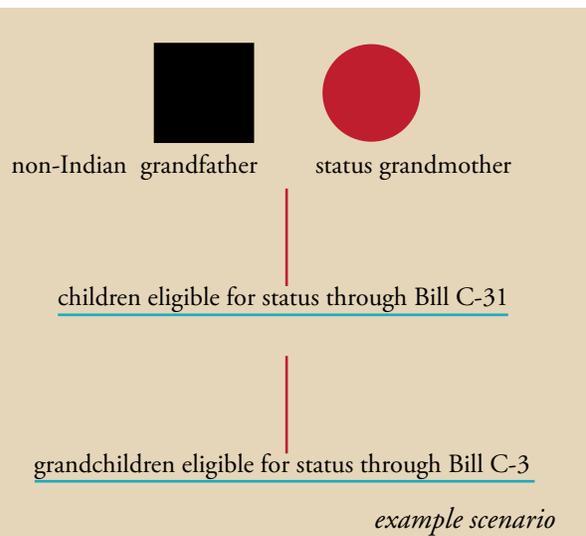
or call INAC at 1-800-567-9604 to request an application package

or call Service Canada at 1-800-O-Canada to find a Service Canada outlet near you.

The application form is for individuals who meet ALL three of the following conditions to apply to be registered pursuant to the 2011 *Indian Act* amendments, *Gender Equity in Indian Registration Act*. Complete and submit if:

- * the applicant's grandmother lost her entitlement to registration as a Status Indian as a result of marrying a non-Indian;
- * one of the applicant's parents is/was entitled to be registered pursuant to subsection 6(2) of the *Indian Act*; AND
- * the applicant was born on or after September 4, 1951.

Note: If the applicant's grandparents were not married to each other before April 17, 1985 and the parent of the applicant was born after April 17, 1985, the 2011 *Indian Act* amendments, the applicant may not be entitled to registration.



Frequently Asked Questions about Bill C-3

Why did the Government of Canada make these amendments?

The Government of Canada made these amendments in response to an April 2009 decision by the Court of Appeal for British Columbia in the case of *McIvor v. Canada* (Registrar of Indian and Northern Affairs).

Will anyone lose their Indian status as a result of this legislation?

No one will lose Indian status. In fact, approximately 45,000 individuals will become entitled to Indian registration as a result of this legislation.

How do these amendments affect band membership?

For bands who determine their own membership, like Squamish Nation, applicants apply to the band, they are affiliated with, for membership and their entitlement to band membership depends on the band's membership code.

Membership Code 2011 is the name of the Squamish membership code amendment process that will include an information sharing program and community consultation forums. All interested parties are encouraged to stay informed and be involved by signing up for our contact list through our Community Outreach Website - www.squamish.net/services/membership2011.html

If a person meets these criteria, do they need to apply for registration?

Yes. The decision to apply rests with the individual, the parents or guardians. If an individual meets all of the above criteria, they can apply if they are an adult. If they are a minor (ages 15 years of age and under) or a dependant adult, their parent or legal guardians can apply on their behalf.

What documentation will I need?

The following provides a general list of the documentation which will be required to apply for registration and for an in-Canada SCIS:

- Original birth certificate (listing parents names)
- Two passport style photographs
- Copies of valid identification (i.e. driver's licence, passport, government issued ID – copies signed by guarantor)
- Guarantor Declaration for SCIS

And if applicable:

- Legal change of name document or marriage certificate
- Custody Court Order
- Statutory Declaration Form(s)

More details on the specific requirements are provided in the application form instructions.

Once I have sent my application in; how long will it take for it to be processed? When can I expect an answer?

INAC has established an application processing service level standard, which takes into consideration the expectation to receive large volumes of applications over a short time period. Applications which are complete will be processed for registration within 4-6 months. Individuals who are deemed eligible for registration will receive a letter of confirmation and providing them with registration number which will allow access to benefits and services for a period of 6 months, which allows time for the in-Canada SCIS to be issued.

If all the required documentation has been provided for the in-Canada format of the SCIS, you will receive your SCIS within 10-12 weeks following that date.

What can I do myself to make my application go faster?

You are encouraged to read all materials very carefully and make sure all your supporting documents are submitted (including any required original documents, quality passport photographs) with your signed application. If you have any questions, contact:

**INAC Public Enquiries
Contact Centre**

**Email: InfoPubs@ainc-inac.gc.ca
Phone: (toll-free) 1-800-567-9604**