

NATION BUILDING INITIATIVE

SQUAMISH NATION MEMBERSHIP CODE

March 2024 | Newsletter

#4

Our Membership Code lays out the rules for becoming a Squamish Member based on our laws and traditions. We approved our current code in 2013, and have been engaging Members on potential updates since March 2023.

What's next?

Members have provided excellent information and questions so far. Our next step is to share back what we've heard with possible scenarios that could be voted on in a Membership Code Referendum. Stay tuned for upcoming surveys, and videos explaining possible referendum scenarios.

Upcoming engagement sessions:

**Squamish
Valley**

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

5:45pm —7:45pm

Totem Hall - Stawamus Room

**Online
(Zoom)**

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

7:00pm —8:00pm

Register on our webpage:
squamish.net/membership-code



**North
Vancouver**

Thursday, March 28, 2024

5:00pm —7:00pm

Elder's Centre

IN THIS ISSUE

This newsletter focuses on answering some of the common questions we have heard at engagement sessions so far.

Q+As in this newsletter:

- Membership Through Marriage
- Squamish Membership and Indian Status
- Band Transfer
- Bill S-3 & Bill C-38
- Adoption

This is Part 2 of the Q+A. Visit our website to read Newsletter #3, which includes Part 1 of the Q+A!



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Squamish Nation

Q&A — PART 2

MEMBERSHIP THROUGH MARRIAGE

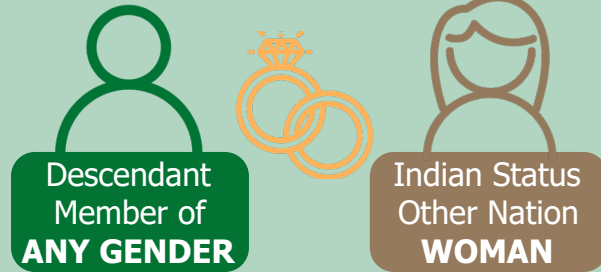
1. What happens when a Descendant Member marries someone from another First Nation?

When a **WOMAN** from another (Canadian) First Nation marries a Descendant Member, she **can apply for Acquired Membership**. Applications are decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the woman's involvement in the community.

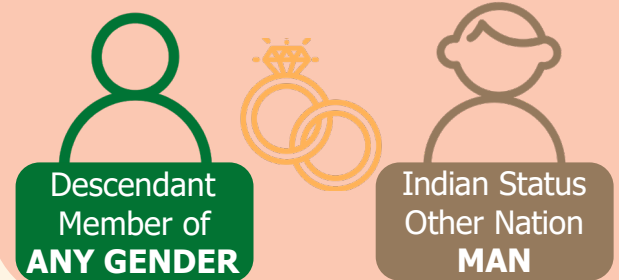
When a **MAN** from another (Canadian) First Nation marries a Descendant Member, he **CANNOT apply for Acquired Membership**.

In 2013, we asked if husbands in this situation should be eligible for Acquired Membership. While the majority of Members who voted on this question responded 'yes,' it did not receive enough 'yes' votes to pass. This amendment lost by 397 votes.

ELIGIBLE TO *APPLY* FOR ACQUIRED MEMBERSHIP



NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR ACQUIRED MEMBERSHIP



“Let’s make this change for our people, for our women”

- Engagement session participant



2. What happens to a woman's Acquired Membership if she divorces her Squamish husband?

A woman can only be removed from the Squamish Membership list if she acquired Indian Status through marriage (prior to 1985), and that marriage has since ended in divorce. The Membership Committee and Membership Appeals Committee would handle any of these requests.

SQUAMISH MEMBERSHIP AND INDIAN STATUS

3. How are Squamish Membership and Indian Status different?

Squamish Nation governs our own Membership Code, but the Government of Canada defines and manages Indian Status registration. Under our current Membership Code, Indian Status is a requirement to apply for Squamish Membership.



4. Could our Membership Code extend Squamish Membership to people who don't have Indian Status?

Technically, if passed by community referendum, we could allow certain people without Indian Status to be Squamish Members. However, our Nation's annual funding from Indigenous Services Canada is based on the number of Squamish Members with Indian Status, so this change would have financial implications for the Nation.



BAND TRANSFER

5. What does transferring to Squamish Nation from another First Nation look like?

People who are eligible for Squamish Membership may transfer into the Nation by submitting a Membership Application. The individual must give up Membership in their other Nation to become a Squamish Member.

BILL S-3

6. What is Bill S-3, and how does it affect Squamish Membership?

Bill S-3 is the most recent amendment to the *Indian Act*. It corrected sex-based inequities by extending Indian Status to certain great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren of women who lost Indian Status through marriage. Some Members of our community may now be eligible for Indian Status under Bill S-3, but not eligible for Squamish Membership until we update our Membership Code.

BILL C-38

7. How might Bill C-38 affect Squamish Membership, if passed?

Bill C-38 addresses descendants of people who lost Indian Status through enfranchisement, meaning their Indian Status was revoked (potentially without knowing). This Bill is currently being heard in the House of Commons. If passed, it would make certain grandchildren and great-grandchildren of those who enfranchised eligible for Indian Status. In that case, we may want to consider updating our Membership Code to reflect similar changes.

“We need to pull together because people are still falling through the cracks”

- Engagement session participant



ADOPTION

8. Are adopted children eligible for Squamish Membership?

Yes, a child under the age of 18 with Indian Status can apply for Acquired Membership when they are adopted by two Squamish Members (of any gender). Adoptees that do not have Indian Status are not eligible to apply. Acquired Membership allows the child to participate in votes and access Member benefits. Children of the Acquired Member may or may not have Squamish Membership — it depends on the other parent’s Membership.

Stay Updated

To stay up to date about upcoming engagement sessions and information about the project, visit our webpage!

Contact Us

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Email: membership@squamish.net

Website: squamish.net/membership-code

