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The Speaker of the House of Commons
Parliament of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

May 20, 2026

Members of Parliament
House of Commons
Parliament of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Re: Support for Bill S-2, An Act to amend the *Indian Act* (new registration entitlements), As Amended by the Senate

Dear Speaker and Honourable Members of Parliament,
The Squamish Nation Council writes to urge the House of Commons to swiftly adopt Bill S-2 as amended by the Senate without further delay.

For four decades, the Squamish Nation and First Nations across Canada have called for the removal of the second-generation cut-off and the 1985 cut-off in the *Indian Act*. These provisions perpetuate sex and race-based discrimination that is fundamentally at odds with principles of fairness and the standards of citizenship laws applied to all other Canadians. No other group of Canadian citizens faces rules that impose race-based restrictions on the transmission of citizenship status to their children. This discrimination contradicts the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and causes ongoing harm to our families and communities. According to Statistics Canada projections, these rules will result in the legal extinction of Status Indians without action.

The Squamish Nation is proud to have developed our own membership code in 1986, reflecting our sovereignty and commitment to determining our own citizenship. We have amended this code numerous times to address evolving circumstances and ensure fair recognition of Squamish People. However, we remain constrained by the discriminatory federal framework of the *Indian Act*. Bill S-2 as amended by the Senate will provide the Squamish Nation with greater strength and legislative space to explore further amendments to our membership code, enabling us to recognize and include Squamish People in accordance with our own laws and jurisdiction.

In November 2025, the Senate Committee on Indigenous Peoples introduced amendments to Bill S-2 that effectively remove both the second-generation cut-off and the 1985 cut-off, returning registration to a one-parent rule for transmission of status. These amendments represent the outcome of extensive consultation and testimony before the Senate Committee and resolutions passed by the First



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Nations-in-Assembly at the Assembly of First Nations. They were overwhelmingly supported by the majority of witnesses who appeared before or submitted briefs to the Committee, including First Nations leadership and organizations, women's organizations, and individuals directly affected by this discrimination. Many of these witnesses were participants in the government's Collaborative Process on the second-generation cut-off.

Most significantly, these amendments were supported and passed unanimously by the Senate of Canada on December 4, 2025. This unanimous support reflects the clarity of the evidence and the moral imperative to address this discrimination.

Parliament has both a legal obligation to uphold the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and a moral obligation to honour the inherent rights of First Nations peoples. Eliminating the sex and race discrimination embedded in the *Indian Act* is essential to this obligation. This is not a matter of special treatment—it is a matter of basic fairness and justice.

We strongly urge the House of Commons to adopt Bill S-2 as amended by the Senate without further amendments or delay. Any further modifications risk undermining the carefully negotiated Senate amendments and extending the suffering of those affected by these discriminatory provisions.

The time for action is now.

Respectfully submitted,

Squamish Nation Council

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Council Chairperson

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