

# BILL S-2



## WHAT IS BILL S-2?

- Bill S-2 originally aimed to **address inequities in the Indian Act regarding registration** entitlements (i.e., who can register to get status under the Indian Act). However, the Bill was originally much more narrow and only aimed to restore status for families that had been affected by historic enfranchisement (individuals who gave up their status for reasons such as to keep their children out of residential school or vote in federal or provincial elections).
- However, on November 21, 2025, the Senate **passed amendments** that significantly broadened Bill S-2 by ending what is known as the **2nd generation cut off** for Indian Act membership and implementing a one parent rule for gaining Indian Act status, which would allow anyone with status under the Indian Act to pass their legal identity and rights under the Indian Act on to their children regardless of whether the other parent has status.





## IS BILL S-2 LAW NOW?

- No, Bill S-2 is not law

## CAN MEMBERS APPLY?

- Members cannot yet apply for Indian Act status under the new rules ending the 2nd generation cut-off. Bill S-2 still has a long way to go before becoming law. The amendments need to go back to Senate (the amendments were made and approved by a Senate Committee, not the Senate), House of Commons and receive Royal Assent (which is the final step in the process of making new laws where the Governor General gives approval). In other words, these amendments may not be accepted.





## NEXT STEPS

- WTCI will continue to monitor Bill S-2 as it makes its way through Senate and the House of Commons. Updates will be provided through our social media channels and website: <https://wtci.wolastoqey.ca>

## MORE INFO

- For more information you can contact [admin@wolastoqey.ca](mailto:admin@wolastoqey.ca) or email the Government of Canada [engagementinscriptionpn-fnregistrationengagement@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:engagementinscriptionpn-fnregistrationengagement@sac-isc.gc.ca).