



2011 Indian Act Amendment Bill C-3 How to apply for Indian Status



2011 Amendments to the Indian Act:

This pamphlet describes who is eligible to register as an Indian following the 2011 amendments to the *Indian Act* as a result of *Bill C-3 Gender Equity in Indian Registration Act*. Registration as an Indian does not happen automatically; you must apply.

What changes were made to the Indian Act in 2011?

The changes introduced by Bill C-3 allow eligible grandchildren of women who lost Indian Status as a result of marrying non-Indian men to become entitled to registration (Indian Status) in accordance with the *Indian Act*.

What defines the eligibility for Status Indians?

The *Indian Act* defines eligibility for Indian Status (i.e. Registered Indians). The Indian Register is the official record identifying all Status Indians in Canada.

With the 2011 amendments to the Indian Act, you may be eligible for registration if you can answer yes to ALL three of the following questions:

1. Did your grandmother lose her Indian status as a result of marrying a non-Indian?
2. Is one of your parents registered, or entitled to be registered, under sub-section 6(2) of the *Indian Act*?
3. Were you, or one of your siblings, born on or after September 4, 1951?

Bill C-3 applicants who meet the criteria outlined in the *Indian Act* amendment and who submit completed applications will be registered as an



Indian and will receive the in-Canada format of the Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS). The SCIS is an identity document issued by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) that confirms the cardholder is a registered Status Indian. SCIS cardholders have access to all rights and benefits associated with having Indian Status. The in-Canada SCIS is not an acceptable document to enter the United States via land or water.

What information do you need to apply?

1. Application form

The application form is available:

- i. **Online:** www.inac.gc.ca
- ii. **By mail:** Call 1-800-567-9604 to request an application package.
- iii. **In person:** At any INAC Regional office or Service Canada Centre

2. Documentation Required:

Detailed documentation requirements are included on the online application form, which is available at www.inac.gc.ca.

The following documentation is required to apply for registration and for an in-Canada SCIS:

- Original birth certificate (listing parents' names)
- Two passport style photographs
- One piece of valid identification (e.g., drivers licence, passport, government issued ID)
- Guarantor Declaration for SCIS

And if applicable:

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

3. Information Required:

You will be required to provide information about yourself, your parents and your grandmother

who lost her Indian Status, including legal names, dates of birth, band name and registration numbers, contact information and adoption information (if relevant).

For persons born before April 17, 1985:

You must provide the name of the band or bands with which your ancestors are affiliated. Failure to do so will result in your application being returned with a request for further information. You are encouraged to provide as much information as you can about your First Nation ancestry (e.g., names of other relatives who are registered).

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada will contact you, by telephone or mail, if more information is required.

4. Signatures required:

- **Applicant (16 years of age and older)**
- **Parental / Guardian Signatures** when applying on behalf of a minor child (15 years of age or younger) or dependant adult

How Do I Apply?

Mail your complete application with the required supporting documents to:

**Application Processing Unit
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
GD STN MAIN
WINNIPEG MB R3C 0M2**

Note: To avoid processing delays, submit all **supporting** documents (including any required **original** documents) with your application. Original documents, with the exception of statutory declarations and Guarantor Declarations, will be **mailed back to you** within one (1) month of receipt of your application. Documents of an adoption related application will be returned to you within two (2) months.

When can I apply?

As of January 31, 2011, applications are accepted.

How long will the process take?

Confirmation of registration and receipt of the in-Canada format of the SCIS will occur in two stages. Applications that are complete will be processed within 4-6 months. Applicants who are approved for registration will receive a letter of confirmation with a registration number that will allow access to benefits and services until the in-Canada SCIS is issued. The in-Canada SCIS will arrive 10-12 weeks after the letter.

Once registered am I automatically a member of my First Nation?

Upon your registration as an Indian, you will be informed if your First Nation determines its own membership and if so, provided with contact information. Otherwise, you will automatically become a member of your First Nation upon registration.

Further Information:

For more information, please call 1-800-567-9604 TTY: 1-866-553-0554 or visit www.inac-ainc.gc.ca.

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