



E'Dbendaagzijing (Citizenship) Collaborative Process - Backgrounder



The Collaborative Process on the Second-Generation Cut-Off and Section 10 Voting Thresholds is Tied to Repeal of *Indian Act* and Broader Issues

The following is an excerpt from the Justice-led Action Plan for Implementing the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Act*, Chapter 2 First Nation Priorities, Political and Civil Rights, Action Items 7 and 8:

The Government of Canada will take the following actions in consultation and cooperation with First Nations:

7. Support the adoption of Bill C-38, which seeks to address discrimination in the registration and membership provisions of the *Indian Act*. (Indigenous Services Canada)
8. Co-develop a collaborative consultation process on a suite of broader reforms relating to registration and band membership issues, prior to any transition away from the *Indian Act*.
 - This includes to consult, cooperate and effectively engage with First Nations women to eliminate remaining gender-based issues.
 - Canada recognizes that the *Indian Act* is a colonial-era law designed to exert control over the affairs of First Nations, and as such, the Act will never be fully aligned with the UN Declaration. For Canada's laws to fulfill the UN Declaration, the *Indian Act* must be repealed.
 - The government is seeking to make the Act's registration and band membership provisions more consistent with the UN Declaration, until a clear consensus on a way forward on comprehensive change or the Act's repeal is possible. (Indigenous Services Canada)

Canada's Action Items 7 and 8 quoted above are driving the Collaborative Process on the Second-Generation Cut-Off and Section 10 Voting Thresholds. These issues fall squarely in the context of the *Indian Act* and are being pursued by ISC.

It is worthy to note that the next Action Item in Canada's plan, is being led by the **Ministers of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)** and **Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)**:

9. Consult First Nations and other impacted Indigenous groups to support the co-development of opt-in alternatives to *Indian Act* registration and membership (First Nation citizenship). This will include a broad spectrum of Indigenous demographic groups, such as women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people, Elders, Treaty groups, etc. (Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada; Indigenous Services Canada)

Source: *Department of Justice Canada*

<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1706281094364/1706281216732>

