



# Citizenship-Update

Waawaashkesh (Deer)



From E-niigaanwidood E'Dbendaagzijig - Citizenship Commissioner: **Dr. Jeannette Corbiere Lavell**

December 16, 2024

Canada says it is, “seeking to make the *Indian 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”.

## 2nd Generation Cut-Off | Section 10 Voting Thresholds

Last week, Minister of Indigenous Services, the Honourable Patty Hajdu, and Parliamentary Secretary Jenica Atwin issued a call for proposals to First Nations to “explore solutions to the Second Generation Cut-Off and Section 10 Voting Thresholds.” The call for proposals and template is found here: <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1726758536445/1726758580504>

This marks the first step in Phase 2 of the Collaborative Process called the “Consultation Activities and Events Stage”. Phase 2 has been co-designed and co-developed among Canada and First Nations. I, as the Commissioner on Citizenship, along with the Anishinabek Nation, participated in Phase 1, the “Co-Development and Information Sharing Phase.”

Canada’s strategy is to amend the *Indian Act* and “consult with First Nations and other impacted Indigenous groups to support the co-development of opt-in alternatives to the *Indian Act* registration and membership (First Nation citizenship).”

I continue to advance our E'Dbendaagzijig Naaknigewin and the one-parent rule that we achieved consensus at our Grand Council Assembly in 2008. Our solution to the Second Generation Cut-Off, Voting Thresholds, and the *Indian Act* is our Inherent Rights, Anishinaabe Law, and our Treaty Rights.

I urge First Nations to apply for the funding to investigate these issues. We have a team to assist you.

## Bill C-38

Included in the discussion are “persisting inequities” within the *Indian Act* such as enfranchisement. Bill C-38 was introduced in December 2022 and currently sits at the Second Reading stage. We continue to advocate its passage. Progress on the bill can be found here: <https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/44-1/c-38>

## E'Dbendaagzijig Gathering

Anishinabek Nation leaders, First Nation registrants, and membership clerks are invited to the gathering in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., on **Wednesday, January 29, 2025**, to discuss, analyze, and strategize our response to Canada’s Action Plan: “towards comprehensive reform that moves beyond the *Indian Act*.” Canada intends to repeal the *Indian Act*. See Chapter 2, First Nation Priorities, Civil and Political Rights, 7, 8, and 9.

<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/declaration/ap-pa/ah/p3.html>

For E'Dbendaagzijig Gathering registration information, contact:  
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**We have the inherent right of self-determination.**

