



PRESS RELEASE
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QUEBEC NATIVE WOMEN CALLS ON THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TO ADOPT BILL S-2 WITHOUT DELAY, AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Wendake, October 22, 2026 – Quebec Native Women (QNW) supports the efforts of the *Indian Act Sex Discrimination Working Group* to urge the Carney government to move forward with the adoption of Bill S-2 without delay, as amended by the Senate.

Quebec Native Women (QNW) has an unequivocal position. The adoption of Bill S-2 represents a historic and decisive opportunity to permanently rectify a policy of forced assimilation enshrined in legislation, one that threatens the continuity of Indigenous Nations, their collective identity and their right to self-determination. It also represents a step toward achieving substantive equality between Indigenous women and men in the transmission of status.

Despite sustained advocacy efforts, numerous recommendations, ongoing advocacy efforts and statements from international human rights organizations, the bill remains stalled in the House of Commons. Yet this provision, rooted in the structural discrimination embedded in the *Indian Act*, directly contributes to the social, economic and legal marginalization of Indigenous women and creates conditions conducive to gender-based violence.

The impacts of the second-generation cut-off rule

To better understand the tangible effects of this discriminatory provision, QNW held dialogues with women from various First Nations in Quebec who are directly affected by the rule, with the aim of documenting its impacts and developing recommendations.

Among the impacts identified are significant barriers to accessing services and participating in community life. These include the loss of access to housing, healthcare and education, and contribute to an environment of fear, stigmatization and tension within communities.

“These impacts are not isolated. They accumulate and compound from one generation to the next, weakening families and the social fabric, while threatening the continuity of our Nations”, says Ms. Marjolaine Étienne, President of Quebec Native Women.

A collective call to action for the adoption of Bill S-2

Following the press conference held in Ottawa by the *Indian Act Sex Discrimination Working Group* and the subsequent demonstration calling for a vote on the bill, QNW reiterates its support for these efforts and calls on all decision-makers to support Bill S-2.

The House of Commons must act without delay and adopt the bill as amended by the Senate in order to put an end to discriminatory provisions governing the transmission of status.

QNW's President also reiterates the importance of accompanying the bill's adoption with an effective implementation plan, supported by concrete funding and commitments to

Indigenous communities, to ensure they have the resources necessary to navigate this significant transition.

About QNW

Quebec Native Women is a non-profit organization that has represented and defended the rights and interests of First Nations women and girls throughout Quebec for more than 50 years.

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Source : Quebec Native Women \ <https://faq-qnw.org/>

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