

# POLITICAL ADVOCACY



Native Women's  
Association of Canada

L'Association des  
femmes autochtones  
du Canada

Prepared by: Veronica Rudyk, Policy Advisor



## LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

1. Notice of motion
  2. Preparation of a bill by a committee (where applicable)
  3. Introduction and first reading
  4. Reference to a committee before second reading (where applicable)
  5. Second reading and reference to a committee
  6. Considering in committee
  7. Report stage
  8. Third Reading
    - a. If it passes Third reading, the bill goes to the other Chamber and is put through the same steps.
  9. Consideration and passage by the Senate
  10. Passage of Senate amendments by the Commons (where applicable)
  11. Royal Assent
  12. Coming into force
- A bill that is introduced in the Senate must go through the same stages, except it is considered first in the Senate, and then in the House of

## NWAC'S ROLE THROUGHOUT THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Ideally, before a bill is even introduced, NWAC would be contacted to consult on whether or not the Bill is exclusive to First Nations, Métis and Inuit women. Any Bill that contains the following needs to be reviewed:

- Contains binary language
- Is exclusionary to Indigenous peoples and/or Indigenous women
- Would have an impact on Indigenous women (directly/indirectly)
- Does not take into account the Indigenous women's specific needs and issues

Once a bill is move to a committee, NWAC would contact the clerk and request to testify if an invitation has not already been sent.

**TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**STRATEGIC POLICY UNIT**

**Marshall Ballard**

**Director**

**[m.ballard@nwac.ca](mailto:m.ballard@nwac.ca)**

**613-697-0297**

# POLITICAL ADVOCACY

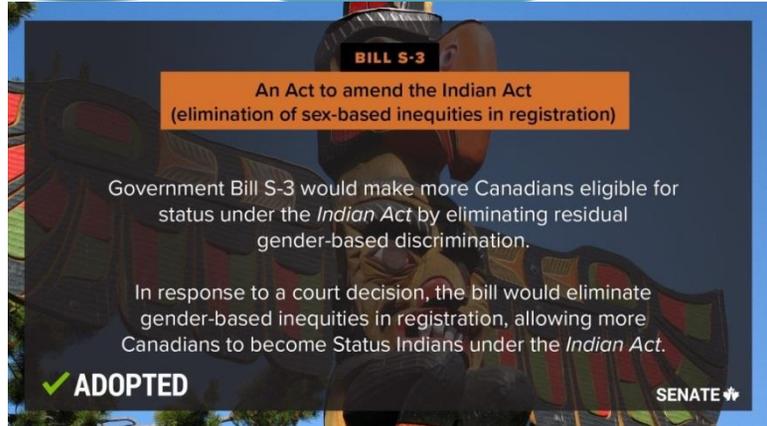


Native Women's  
Association of Canada

L'Association des  
femmes autochtones  
du Canada

## Bill S-3: An Act to amend the Indian Act in response to the Superior Court of Quebec decision in Descheneaux c. Canada

- Bill S-3 refers to an Act, passed in December 2017, whose initial purpose was to fix the sex-based discriminatory registration provisions within the *Indian Act*. The Bill was divided into two stages, the latter stage consisting of consultations with Indigenous communities and persons.
- There are still amendments that need to be made to the Bill, including the conformity of the registration provisions with the United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- NWAC remains concerned that the “No Liability” clause has remained in the legislation, hindering Indigenous women’s access to justice and Charter damages.



## KEY BILLS

- **Bill C-262: An Act to ensure the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples**

This enactment requires the Government of Canada to take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of Canada are in harmony with UNDRIP. Mr. Romeo Saganash presented this Bill in 2016 as a way of creating a framework that recognizes the principles set out in UNDRIP and incorporates them into the laws of Canada. As of February 2018, Bill C-262 passed its second reading and has been referred to the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

- **Bill S-215: An Act to amend the Criminal Code (sentencing for violent offences against Aboriginal women)**

This enactment amends the *Criminal Code* to require a court, when imposing a sentence for certain violent offences, to consider the fact that the victim is an Aboriginal woman to be an aggravating circumstance. Indigenous women face a greater risk of being assaulted or murdered and this Bill would give equal protection of the law to Indigenous women guaranteed by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and by UNDRIP; they would gain the same type of protection granted to other Canadians.