

# POLITICAL ADVOCACY/LEGISLATIVE REVIEW



Native Women's  
Association of Canada

L'Association des  
femmes autochtones  
du Canada

## 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.
- Bill C-262 have passed through the House of Commons and is now awaiting its second reading in the Senate.



## 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:**

NWAC  
613-722-3033  
reception@nwac.ca

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## 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
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 Commons.

## KEY BILLS AND COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

- **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.

- **Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples: Study on the new relationship between Canada and First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples**

In 2016, the Liberal Government announced a framework for an overarching strategy to renew its relationship with Indigenous Peoples. This framework has a nation-to-nation basis. Nation-to-nation is a departure from the longstanding practice for the Federal government to include five National Indigenous Organizations in discussion about the issues: NWAC, AFN, ITK, MNC and CAP

NWAC appeared before the committee to give recommendations on the new principles of this new relationship:

- Inclusion of Indigenous women in decision making and negotiations
- Respect of Indigenous self-governance
- Making Indigenous women's needs and issues a policy priority (wellbeing, housing, education, violence prevention, mental health, accessibility)