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BILL S-2

Media coverage immediately after the Senate's amendments to Bill S-2 that included the second-generation cut-off and the one-parent rule, have led many to believe that these changes are finalized and will automatically become law. This is not accurate.

Where Bill S-2 Actually Stands

This has passed the full Senate.

The bill has now been forwarded to the House of Commons and is currently at the second reading. from there it will undergo the following;

1. Second Reading
2. Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs
3. Report Stage
4. Third Reading

Nothing in Bill S-2 comes into effect unless both the House of Commons and Senate pass it. The Bill must then receive Royal Assent.

The House on break for 6 weeks and is expected to be recalled on January 26, 2026, but this date could change.

Canada continues to frame Bill S-2 as being strictly about the Nicholas court case on Enfranchisement. Canada has not accepted that this is the timely opportunity to fix long-standing discrimination, including the second-generation cut-off. The Senate can propose amendments, but the Government can reject them once the bill goes to the House. If the House of Commons makes any changes to Bill S-2, the bill must return to the Senate so both chambers agree on the exact same wording. Only after both the Senate and the House approve the same text, can it receive Royal Assent. Until then, nothing changes in law.

First Nations still have an opportunity right now to ensure our voices are heard and shape the final bill. This is an important moment to ensure that members of our families and our future generations are welcomed back into our Family Circles and not, once again, left behind by federal legislation.

Please keep an eye out on our page for a virtual information session with ISC in January 2026.