

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 necessary measures to ensure the laws of Canada are in harmony with UNDRIP.
- Romeo Saganash MP presented the 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* has 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 the bill is inclusive of First Nations, Métis and Inuit women.

Any bill that contains the following needs to be reviewed:

- Binary language.
- Exclusion of Indigenous people and/or Indigenous women.
- Direct or indirect impact on Indigenous women.
- Does not take into account Indigenous women's specific needs and issues.

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

TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE CONTACT:

NWAC
613-722-3033
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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. Considerations of committee.
7. Report stage.
8. Third Reading: If it passes the 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 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 the court, when imposing a sentence for certain violent offences, to consider the fact the victim is an Aboriginal woman to be an aggravating circumstance. Indigenous women face a greater risk of being assaulted or murdered. This Bill would give equal protection of the law to Indigenous women, guaranteed under the Charter of Rights and Freedom, 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 people.**

In 2016, the Liberal Government announced a framework for an overarching strategy to renew its relationship with Indigenous people. 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 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).