

<b>OKANAGAN INDIAN BAND POLICIES &amp; BYLAWS</b>	Name of Policy: <b>MEMBERSHIP POLICY</b>
Date of Council Approval: DRAFT	Effective Date:

**OKANAGAN INDIAN BAND MEMBERSHIP POLICY – DRAFT 090821**

Whereas Okanagan Indian Band membership is determined according to section 5(1) Indian Registry which states there shall be maintained in the Department an Indian Registry in which shall be recorded the name of every person who is entitled to be registered as an Indian under this Act.

And whereas this new policy of the Okanagan Indian Band Council is to engage a policy process for the purpose of membership transfer of those Indians registered according to the Indian Act.

**Okanagan Ancestry/Familial Ties**

Indians registered according to the Indian Act of Canada and Okanagan Ancestry defined as a person whom is descended from an Okanagan family or with familial ties defined as a person or persons with Okanagan by heredity, may apply to the Okanagan Indian Band for transfer to the Okanagan Indian Band.

Upon application, a one time processing fee of \$50.00 will be charge. Upon the completion of processing, the application will be forwarded to a Band Council meeting to consider the application.

**Indian Ancestry**

This policy applies to those registered as an Indian according to Status 5(1) of the Indian Act.

Indians of ancestry for familial ancestry by heredity, from other Nations will be considered for membership by application to the Okanagan Indian Band Council.

**Definitions**

**Lineage:** Refers to mother, father, or grandparents originating from Okanagan Indian Band 616 registry

**Majority Vote:** Refers to a 60% majority of those members voting in the referendum. This does not mean 60% of the Bands eligible voters.

**Filing Fee:** A one-time fee of \$50.00 dollars will be collected before processing the application for Council consideration. This fee will cover administration costs.

**Referendum Process:** The Council will direct the clerk to place an invitation to bid on the membership process. Upon receipt of the bid Chief and Council will collect the full cost of the referendum from the applicants and then select the firm/individual. (The bid will be inclusive of mailing, advertising costs, other disbursements and overseeing the entire voting processes, and preparation of a final report for Chief and Council).

Chief and Council will review and accept the final report at a duly convened Council meeting and make recommendation to the membership clerk to register

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the successful applicants as per INAC guidelines. All applicants can view the results on the Okanagan Indian Band website indicating the voting results.

**Description**

Okanagan Indian Band membership is determined according to section 5(1) Indian Registry.

This new policy is for the purpose of membership transfer for those Indians regulations according to the Indian Act to the Okanagan Indian Band.

**Purpose/Rationale**

Okanagan Indian Band Chief and Council have the authority under the Indian Act Section 5(1) to add or remove from membership by BCR. Under this authority it does not define policies to address:

- Spousal/children relationships
- Status Indians of Okanagan Indian Band (616) lineage
- Other

**Reasons for developing this policy:**

- Efficiency in processing applications
- Clear guidelines for our membership department to operate
- Facilitate growth
- Equal and fair treatment for those seeking to transfer to OKIB (616)
- Acknowledge and return to hereditary values

**Applicable To:**

Status Indians as defined by the Indian Act Section 6 (1) requesting transfer to the Okanagan Indian Band (616)

**POLICY TITLE: OKIB MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER**

**1. General – Okanagan Indian Band Lineage**

- a) This is the policy of the Okanagan Indian Band to consider requests for membership transfer of Status Indians as defined by the Indian Act.
- b) The Okanagan Indian Band will consider the requests for membership transfer of status Indians who are;
  - i. Spouses of Okanagan Indian Band (616) members
  - ii. Children of Okanagan Indian Band (616) members
  - iii. Those affected by Marriage prior to April 17, 1985

**2. OKIB Membership Transfer – Non OKIB Lineage**

- a) Status Indians as defined by the Indian Act may obtain membership in a Band Referendum. The applicant(s) shall be responsible for the total cost of the referendum

**Procedure:**

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**I. Transfer Request – OKIB Lineage (Standard Procedure)**

- a) Applicant must submit a signed, dated written request for membership transfer to the Okanagan Indian Band Membership Officer.
- b) Written request(s) must be accompanied by the following:
  - i. Current status card
  - ii. Full form birth certificate
  - iii. Criminal record check
  - iv. Letter of reference from originating Band
  - v. Letter of reference (credit check) from originating Band’s accounting department. (Only applies to those of legal age)
  - vi. If, the originating Band is governed by S. 10, applicant must include signed BCR from the originating Band.
- c) Upon receipt of all documentation, the Okanagan Indian Band Membership Officer, the application will be reviewed and a recommendation shall be made to Chief and Council.

**II. Transfer Request –Non-OKIB Lineage may obtain Membership in Okanagan Indian Band via a Band Referendum**

The applicant shall be responsible for the total cost of the referendum. If acceptable the applicant shall provide the following:

- a. Applicant must submit a signed, dated written request for membership transfer to the Okanagan Indian Band Membership Officer.
- b. Written request(s) must be accompanied by the following:
  - i. Current status card
  - ii. Full form birth certificate
  - iii. Criminal record check
  - iv. Letter of reference from originating Band
  - v. Letter of reference (credit check) from originating Band’s accounting department.
  - vi. If, the originating Band is governed by S. 10, applicant must include signed BCR from the originating Band.
- c. The applicant will work with the Okanagan Indian Band Membership Officer to develop a Referendum proposal.
- d. Upon collection of a Referendum cost estimate, the Okanagan Indian Band membership officer will begin the referendum process.
- e. A successful referendum is determined by 60% of majority vote.

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**III. Other: Individual Status Indians from Bands that have separated from Okanagan Indian Band may only obtain Okanagan Indian Band membership via Band Referendum.**

The applicant shall be responsible for the total cost of the referendum. If acceptable to the applicant shall provide the following:

- a) Applicant must submit a signed, dated written request for membership transfer to the Okanagan Indian Band Membership Officer.
- b) Written request(s) must be accompanied by the following:
  - Current status card;
  - Full form birth certificate;
  - Criminal record check;
  - Letter of reference from originating Band;
  - Letter of reference (credit check) from originating Band's accounting department;
  - If, the originating Band is governed by S. 10, applicant must include signed BCR from the originating Band;
- c) The applicant will work with the Okanagan Indian Band Membership Officer to develop a Referendum proposal.
- d) Upon collection of a Referendum cost estimate, the Okanagan Indian Band Membership Officer will begin the referendum process.
- e) A successful referendum is determined by 60% of majority vote.

**Contact Person:**

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