QUAKERS
Canadian Friends Service Committee

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16th October 2026

Honourable Mark Carney
Prime Minister
Government of Canada
Via Email Only: pm@pm.gc.ca; mark.carney@parl.gc.ca

RE: Pass *Bill S-2* as amended to Eliminate the Second Generation Cut-Off

Dear Prime Minister Mark Carney,

Greetings from Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC), the peace and social justice agency of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Canada. We are writing today with deep concerns about the delay in passing *Bill S-2, An Act to Amend the Indian Act*, as amended by the Senate. The continued impact of discriminatory provisions within the *Indian Act*, specifically the second-generation cut-off rule under Section 6(2) continues the 150-year-old policy of eliminating the 'Indian problem' by assimilating First Nations people into the non-Indigenous population. This policy undermines Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination and requires legislative changes.

CFSC has long been engaged with the work of reconciliation and notes that all actions towards reconciliation efforts require the guidance of the Indigenous Peoples involved and need to be done with respect, cooperation, and ongoing consultation. Indeed, that is why CFSC strongly advocates for the full and effective implementation of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which, according to Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, is "**the framework for reconciliation**" between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

We sincerely hope you will listen to many Indigenous nations, the Standing Senate Committee on Indigenous Peoples, and the Senate of Canada and pass Bill S-2 as amended to eliminate the second-generation cut-off, without further delay.

We support the calls to action of the recent recommendations made by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the UN Human Rights Committee and the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which call for an immediate end to the second-generation cut-off.

Canada's consultative process can and should continue on *how* to support Indigenous communities in welcoming new members; not on *whether* to continue a policy of sex- and race-based discrimination. It is our understanding that many years of consultation have already been conducted. Articles 8, 9, and 33 of the *UN Declaration*—state:

> ***Article 8***
> **1.** Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.
> **2.** States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:
>
> > **(a)** Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities;

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(b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;
(c) Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights;
(d) Any form of forced assimilation or integration;
(e) Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed against them.

Article 9
Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right to belong to an indigenous community or nation, in accordance with the traditions and customs of the community or nation concerned. No discrimination of any kind may arise from the exercise of such a right.

Article 33
1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions. This does not impair the right of indigenous individuals to obtain citizenship of the States in which they live.
2. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the structures and to select the membership of their institutions in accordance with their own procedures.

It is our belief that, after 150 years, the government of Canada can act decisively to address the impacts of the *Indian Act*'s provisions that amount to forced assimilation. We urge you to prioritize the swift passage of Bill S-2 as amended by the Senate to end forced assimilation and sex discrimination —this would be an excellent step in advancing reconciliation and affirming the inherent collective human rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Preston
General Secretary
Canadian Friends Service Committee

CC: Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN)
Hon. Minister Mandy Gull-Masty
Hon. Minister Rebecca Alty
Hon. Minister Rebecca Chartrand