

Ontario Membership/Citizenship Demographicsⁱ Information Sheet

Under the current *Indian Act* regime, demographics show that the number of individuals who meet the requirements for both *Indian Act* registration (status) and band membership will decline. This decline results in loss of status-related benefits as well as band membership benefits for individuals.

Over the next 4 generations, or approximately 100 years, current *Indian Act* Registration requirements will lead to a reduction in the number of individuals entitled to Indian status which will subsequently lead to a decline in band membership. The impacts off-reserve are significantly higher.

This decline is directly attributed to the **second-generation cut-off**.

Changes will occur at a faster rate off-reserve.

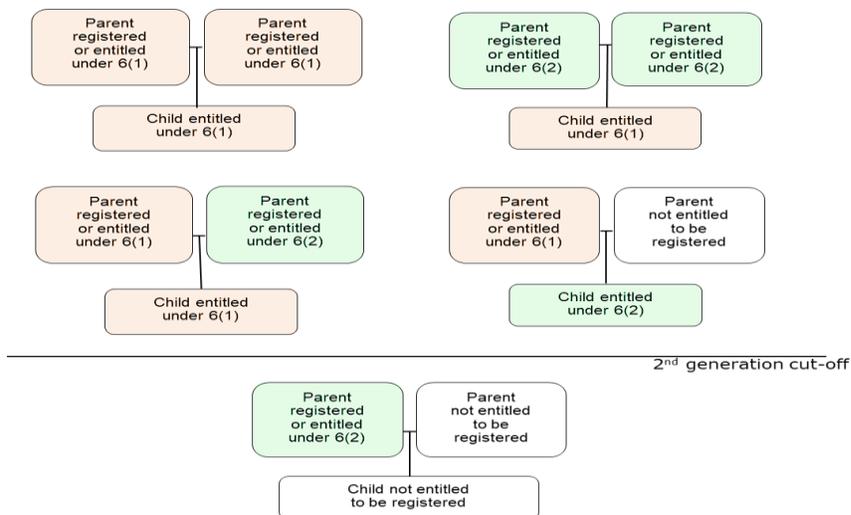
This is primarily due to **exogamous parenting**. Changes will occur at a faster rate off-reserve where the rate of exogamous parenting is highest.

What is exogamous parenting?

Exogamous parenting occurs when an individual who is registered under the *Indian Act* has children with someone who is not entitled to Indian registration. Exogamous parenting directly impacts whether children of these unions are entitled to registration under the *Indian Act*.

What is the second generation cut-off?

Indian Act registration provisions 6(1) and 6(2) delineate who is entitled to registration based on parentage. The **second generation cut-off** occurs after two consecutive generations of parenting with a person who is not entitled to registration (exogamous parenting) creating a cut-off. The chart below outlines how the cut-off works.



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GCDOCS # 94888559

Membership for First Nations in Ontario

Within the next 100 years it is expected that more than 88.5% of Ontario First Nations children born off reserve will not be entitled to registration.

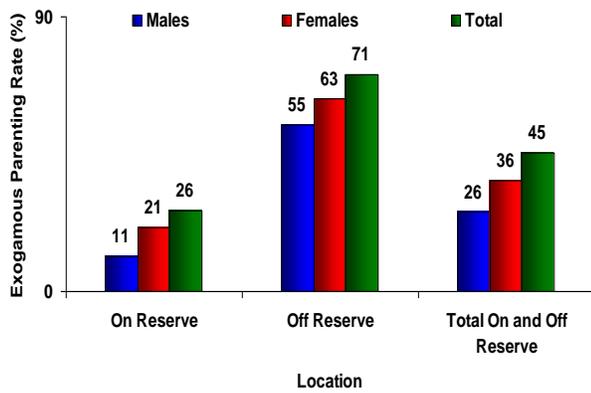
- How membership is determined within Ontario First Nations varies. The majority of First Nations' membership is defined by the *Indian Act*, regardless if the Government control the membership lists under section 11, or if the First Nations have taken control under section 10 of the Act. For those First Nations who control their own membership rules or lists (under section 10), some rely on the requirement of having two parents as members, others only require one parent to be a member and some rely on blood quantum rules.

Membership/Citizenship Rule	First Nations	%
<i>Indian Act Rules (Section 10 & 11)</i>	97	70.3
Two Parent Rules	10	7.2
Unlimited One Parent Rules	18	13
Blood Quantum Rules	113	9.4
Total	138	100.0

- Among the 70% of Ontario First Nations that use *Indian Act* rules for membership the share of the population entitled to registration and membership is projected to decline steadily. Those entitled to both registration and membership are projected to form a minority after roughly 75 years. Within 100 years only about one in five are expected to be entitled to registration and membership.
- Ontario First Nations that use two parent membership rules (requiring both parents to be members) are expected to see a rapid decline in the number of individuals entitled to registration and eligible for membership. Within 100 years, only about 50% are expected to qualify for registration and only 4% would be eligible for membership.
- For Ontario First Nations that use one parent rules for membership (only require one parent to be a member), most future descendants are expected to be eligible for membership throughout the 100 year period. However, within around 60 years, most individuals will not be entitled to Indian

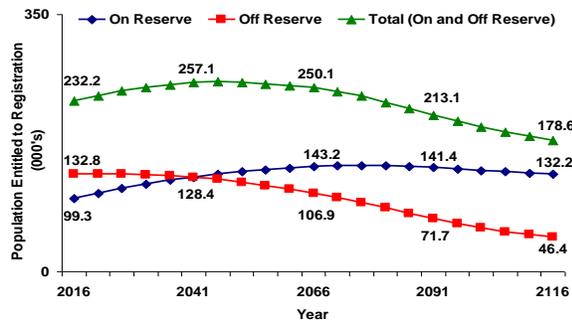
registration. Within 100 years the share of the future population entitled to Indian registration is projected to form a minority of the population.

Rate of Exogamous Parenting (%)



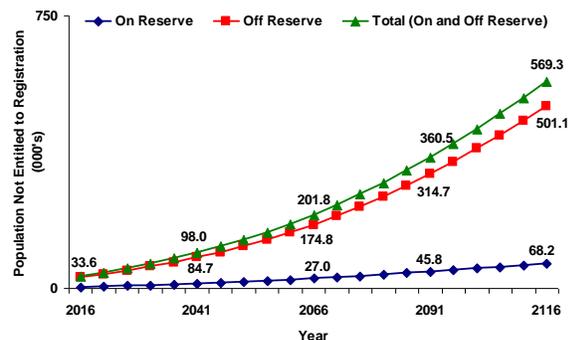
- Exogamous parenting accounts for more than 45% of all children born between 2006 to 2011 in Ontario.
- Exogamous parenting rates are about 26% on reserve and 71% off reserve.
- Exogamous parenting is higher for First Nation women than men.

Projected Population Entitled to Registration



- The population that is entitled to Indian registration is projected to rise for roughly 50 years (likely due to *Indian Act* amendments)
- Subsequent declines are expected to reduce the population after about 100 years.

Descendant Population Not Entitled to Registration



- The population of descendants that will not be entitled to Indian registration is projected to increase rapidly within 100 years.
- Non-entitled descendants are expected to form a majority of the future off-reserve population of descendants within about 60 years.

The two graphs above appear contradictory. This trend may partly be a result of the low exogamous parenting rate on reserve. However, in the long term if changes are not made to registration, we will see the decline of descendants entitled to registration due to the impact of increasing exogamous parenting off-reserve and the second-generation cut-off. This is in line with the national average.

ⁱ Information provided by Stewart Clatworthy contracted by CIRNAC on the impacts of *An Act to amend the Indian Act in response to the Superior Court of Quebec decision in Descheneaux c. Canada (Procureur général)* (Bill S-3).