

Frequently Asked Questions on Enrollment

1. Why do we need an Enrollment Act?

The Enrollment Act will make clear who can and cannot enroll under the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Final Agreement (CAFN FA). It will also put in place clear rules, criteria and processes for fair decision-making when someone applies to enroll under CAFN's Final Agreement.

The Act makes it clear that in order to enroll under the CAFN Final Agreement, a person must have ancestral ties to CAFN. This will prevent people who are not related to CAFN from being able to enroll.

Chapter 3 of the CAFN Final Agreement says who can enroll under *a Yukon* First Nation Final Agreement, but this Act will make it clear who can enroll under *CAFN's* Final Agreement.

In the absence of a CAFN Enrollment Act, any "Yukon Indian Person" is eligible to and can enroll under any Yukon First Nation Final Agreement, including CAFN, as per Chapter 3 of our Final Agreement.

2. What are the financial implications of enrollment under the Final Agreement and Citizens?

Every person enrolled under the CAFN Final Agreement shares our CAFN treaty benefits. The more people enrolled under the CAFN Final Agreement, the more people share the same benefits.

This Act does not identify the specific rights or benefits of being enrolled with CAFN.

Specific rights and benefits are identified in the CAFN Final and Self-Government Agreements and in CAFN policy. CAFN Chief and Council make policy decisions on specific eligibility and criteria for programs and services. Those policy decisions are separate from this Act.

The draft Enrollment Act does not provide direction on who should be eligible for specific programs or services. It deals strictly with who can enroll and the process for enrollment.

3. Why should all people enrolled with CAFN also have their Status registration with CAFN?

Status Indian registration has some significance in that it proves that an applicant has Indian ancestry sufficient to meet AANDC requirements. However, it does not prove that an applicant meets Chapter 3 criteria as a Yukon Indian person or any other affiliation with CAFN.

There is no specific financial increase for CAFN due to a new Status registrant. By having CAFN status registration, the applicant does not have access to other First Nation programs through status and avoids "double dipping".

4. If a person is a Status Indian with another First Nation, can they enroll under the CAFN Final Agreement?

Yes, until this Act is passed, people can be “dual Citizens” or enrolled with CAFN and Status with another First Nation. But one purpose of the new CAFN Enrollment Act is to help resolve “dual Citizenship” issues. The Enrollment Act will require applicants and Citizens to be enrolled and maintain status with only CAFN.

The Act will require applicants to move their status to CAFN if they are accepted for enrollment under the CAFN Final Agreement. The Enrollment Act will also allow CAFN to give notice to people who are “dual citizens” (currently enrolled under the CAFN Final Agreement, but whose Indian Status is with another First Nation or Indian Band) to apply to AANDC to transfer their status to CAFN if they wish to remain enrolled with CAFN.

The Enrollment Act will make it easier for the First Nations Council to govern when every individual enrolled under the Final Agreement has CAFN status.

5. Are adopted children eligible to enroll?

Yes, legally adopted children of CAFN Citizens are eligible to enroll under the CAFN Final Agreement just like a biological child would be, as long as they meet the criteria in Chapter 3 and in the Enrollment Act. However, the children of adopted children are not eligible to enroll under the CAFN Final Agreement unless they can meet the criteria for enrollment under the CAFN Final Agreement in some other way. This is set out in the Final Agreement (Chapter 3) and cannot be altered by CAFN.

6. Can spouses of people enrolled under the CAFN Final Agreement apply to enroll?

No, spouses are typically not able to apply to enroll with CAFN. A spouse can only apply to enroll under the CAFN Final Agreement if he/she meets the requirements of Chapter 3 and is ancestrally connected to CAFN as set out in the Enrollment Act.

7. Are there restrictions on Alaska resident applications?

No, there are no restrictions in Chapter 3 of the CAFN Final Agreement and there is nothing in the Enrollment Act that restricts enrollment of Alaska residents. The same criteria in the CAFN Final Agreement and in the Enrollment Act that is applied to anybody applying to enroll under the CAFN Final Agreement will also be applied to Alaska residents. This means that if an Alaskan resident can show that they are a Yukon Indian Person for the purposes of Chapter 3 and they are ancestrally connected to CAFN for the purposes of the Enrollment Act, the Alaskan resident will be accepted for enrollment under the CAFN Final Agreement.