

## CITIZENSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP IN C/TFN

*Under the Carcross/Tagish First Nation Self-Government Agreement, C/TFN will gain the ability to set its own rules for how it will operate its own government. For example, it will be able to make rules about how people are elected or appointed to governing councils. The new C/TFN government will also be able to decide who can become a citizen of the First Nation.*

Many of the rules for how C/TFN governs itself are already laid out in the C/TFN constitution and its citizenship code. The constitution and the code can be amended at any time by C/TFN citizens (the constitution describes how these amendments may happen).

C/TFN's constitution outlines different categories for people's involvement in the First Nation (the rights associated with these categories are found on the next page).

- **Members:** These are people who are of Carcross/Tagish ancestry and who are entitled to be enrolled as a C/TFN citizen (which includes people who can enrol under the Final Agreement).
- **Associate Members:** These are people who are not of Carcross/Tagish ancestry. This category may include people who are entitled to enrol under the Final Agreement or who have a special relationship with C/TFN (e.g. through marriage or adoption). It might be people who have been members of the C/TFN band, but who do not have Carcross/Tagish ancestry.

- **Children of the Community:** This category includes both members and associate members who are not members of a clan. Children of the community have the right to attend any clan meeting.
- **Citizens:** Both members and associate members may become citizens of C/TFN. People with Carcross/Tagish ancestry or who are entitled to enrol under the Final Agreement or who are members of the C/TFN band are automatically citizens (as long as they are not citizens of another First Nation). Others must demonstrate a special relationship with C/TFN, have their application sponsored by a C/TFN citizen, and be accepted by the Citizenship Committee.

### ROLE OF CLANS

The C/TFN governing structure is based on the traditional clan system. There are six clans and they each appoint C/TFN members to the different governing councils of C/TFN and as delegates to the Assemblies. This guarantees equal representation of all the clans. The membership and organization of each clan is decided by the clan according to its traditions and customs.

As the clans are the core of the decision-making processes in C/TFN, it is important that all C/TFN citizens have the opportunity to participate in a clan. The C/TFN constitution now states that any member or associate member who is not a member of a clan falls in the category "Children of the Community" so they may participate in any clan meeting.

C/TFN is also setting up a committee to review a number of options for ensuring Children of the Community will each have the ability to become a member of a clan.

*For more information on how C/TFN is governed and on the rights of members, associate members and citizens, please see the C/TFN Constitution and Citizenship Code.*



## Carcross/Tagish First Nation Citizens

A C/TFN citizen is someone:

1. who was a member of the band right before land claims agreements were approved;
2. enrolled under the C/TFN Final Agreement; or
3. who is of C/TFN ancestry.

- Others may apply to become citizens. If they do not have C/TFN ancestry, they must:
  - have a special relationship with C/TFN;
  - have their application sponsored by a C/TFN citizen; and
  - be accepted as a citizen by the Citizenship committee.
- C/TFN citizens cannot be citizens of another First Nation.
- C/TFN citizens retain all of their rights as a Canadian citizen.
- They have citizenship rights as outlined in the C/TFN Constitution, including the right of redress to the Justice Council.
- C/TFN members and associate members are both eligible to become C/TFN citizens.

### WHO is a Member?

- Has Carcross/Tagish ancestry (or has been a member of C/TFN band since 1940).
- Is typically a beneficiary of the C/TFN Final Agreement.
- May or may not be a member of a clan. (*If they have no clan, they would be considered "children of the community."*)

### RIGHTS of members

- Entitled to become a citizen.
- Right to be appointed to any branch of C/TFN government.
- Right to speak at meetings of the Assembly or Council.
- Right to hunt, fish and gather in C/TFN Traditional Territory.
- Right to access any programs and services provided by C/TFN.
- Can access any rights and benefits from the Final Agreement which are controlled by the C/TFN government.
- Can occupy, use and develop C/TFN lands in accordance with C/TFN laws, policies and procedures.
- Right of redress to the Justice Council.

### WHO is an Associate Member?

- Is associated with C/TFN but does not have C/TFN ancestry (e.g. could be status member of the band but of different ancestry, could be enrolled under the Final Agreement but not of Carcross/Tagish ancestry, or could be married to or adopted by a C/TFN member).
- Could be adopted by a C/TFN clan or might not belong to any clan. (*In this case, they would be considered "children of the community."*)

### RIGHTS of Associate Members

- All may apply to become a citizen. Associate members who were members of the band or are enrolled under the Final Agreement are entitled to be citizens.
- Right to hunt, fish and gather in C/TFN Traditional Territory in accordance with C/TFN laws and constitution.
- Right to access benefits prescribed by C/TFN government.
- Right to reside on C/TFN lands with approval of C/TFN government.
- Cannot be appointed to any branch of C/TFN government. Right to participate in Assembly or Council is not guaranteed.

### Children of the Community

- Are C/TFN citizens who do not belong to a C/TFN clan (both members and associate members may be children of the community).
- Have lots of opportunity for input as they may attend and participate in meetings of any clan of C/TFN.
- C/TFN has established a committee to review options and develop a formal process for the adoption of children of the community into a clan.

### Contact the Ratification Committee for more information.

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*This information sheet highlights elements of the Carcross/Tagish land claim agreements. It should not be relied on for legal interpretation of the Final and Self-Government agreements.*