

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON ENROLMENT

What is “live birth registration”?

A live birth registration is a document that provides all the relevant birth information on an individual (i.e. name, date of birth, place of birth, name of parents, date of birth of parents, residence of mother at time of birth). It is obtained from the Vital Statistics office of the Territory or Province of birth for a fee.

If I have provided “live birth registration” for my child, will he/she need to go through enrolment upon turning 18?

Yes. By providing the live birth registration to IRC, a file is opened by the Deputy Enrolment Registrar. This allows IRC to confirm whether your child will qualify for programs or benefits offered to children by IRC (such as Inuvialuit Education Foundation – IEF – student funding) or by the corporate group (such as the PIVUT Fare offered by Canadian North). This will also enable IRC to confirm to Health Canada your child’s status for the purpose of the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program. Your child will still need to apply for enrolment at the age of 18 to be recognized as a beneficiary.

What is enrolment? When can a person apply to enrol?

Enrolment is the process to be recognized as a beneficiary of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA). A person who is 18 years old, or who will turn 18 on or before the annual meeting of the Enrolment Committee, can apply to be enrolled. The Enrolment Committee meets in April of each year to review the applications received during the year.

Who determines the eligibility and enrolment of future beneficiaries?

Section 5(7) of the IFA states: “The Inuvialuit shall determine the eligibility and enrolment of future beneficiaries, those born after July 25, 1984.” The date is the exact date that the IFA came into effect.

What are the enrolment criteria for someone born after July 25, 1984?

IRC’s By-law #2 states that a person born after July 25, 1984 can enrol if:

1. He or she is the child of a person on the Official Voters List; or
2. He or she is the child of a person on the Official Eligibility List; or
3. One parent is enrolled and the person was born in the ISR or Inuvik; or
4. One parent is enrolled and the person lived in the ISR or Inuvik for a total of 10 years.

Since passage of IRC By-law #2 in 1985, it has not been amended.

What is the history behind IRC By-law #2?

One of the first actions taken by IRC after coming into existence was to approve By-law #2 to address the eligibility of those Inuvialuit born after July 25, 1984. In an effort to preserve and promote a connection between the beneficiaries of the claim and the Inuvialuit Region, the by-law established a future requirement that beneficiaries would need to have been born in the Region or lived in it for 10 years. This would not take effect immediately but was modified to provide that children of a person on the Official Eligibility List (or who ought to have been on the list) “shall be eligible to be enrolled as a beneficiary of the Inuvialuit Trust”.

What is the “Official Voters List”? What is its connection with the “Official Eligibility List”?

For a long time, the Official Voters List was used by the Enrolment Committee as its Official Eligibility List. The Official Voters List contained all those “Inuvialuit” who were 18 and older and eligible to vote for or against the ratification of the IFA. It became the basis for the initial enrolment list following the successful ratification.

It is only in recent years when the “future generation rule” came into play that IRC conducted an extensive search of its archives for documents relevant to the enrolment process. The search expanded to include the archives of COPE (Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement, the entity that represented Inuvialuit up to the time of the signing of the IFA). This produced a document entitled “Official Eligibility List” dated February 5, 1986. The process leading to its development and the time of its publication led to the conclusion that this was the “Official Eligibility List” referenced in By-law #2.

The principal difference between the two lists is the inclusion of persons under the age of 18 on the Official Eligibility List. This effectively extends for another generation the eligibility for enrolment of person born outside the Region.

Can I enrol with more than one land claim?

A person can only enrol with one Canadian land claim. For instance, a person who is enrolled with the Gwich’in Land Claim Agreement or the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement will not be accepted as a beneficiary of the IFA unless he/she provides evidence that he/she withdrew from the other land claim.