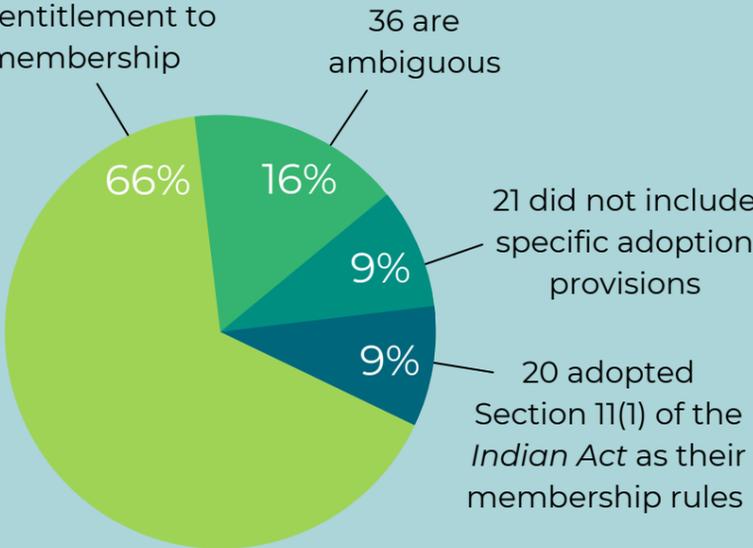


# Quantitative Analysis of Adoption in First Nation Membership Codes

## PROVISIONS FOR ADOPTION

### OF 227 SECTION 10 MEMBERSHIP CODES...

150 include provisions for adoption as a basis for entitlement to membership



Despite the incidence of adoption's inclusion in membership codes, it is important to note that adoption is not uniformly defined.

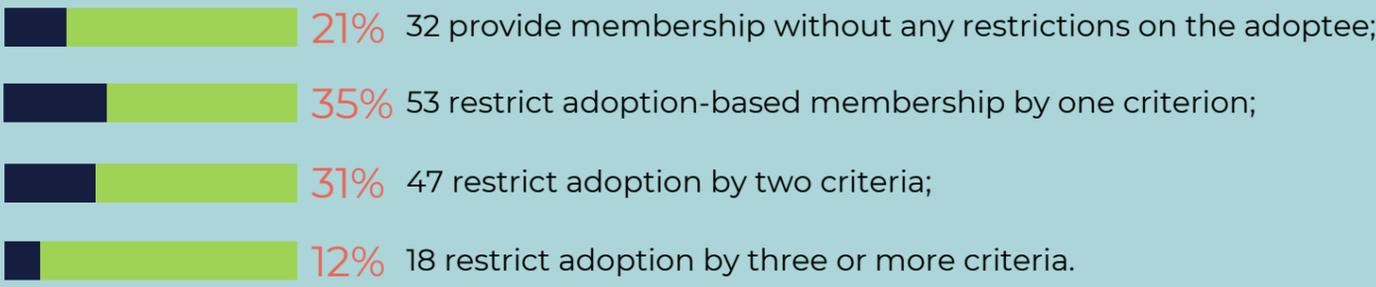
## DEFINITIONS OF ADOPTION

First Nations have defined several types of adoption, and have at times placed various restrictions on the types of adoptees who can be admitted to membership. Conversely, other bands have provided an adoption-based membership entitlement without defining adoption or without placing restrictions on adoptees.

## RESTRICTIONS TO ADOPTION

Types of criteria	Combinations of criteria	Flexibility
Some section 10 First Nations might provide entitlement to band membership only if an adoptee can prove <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>descent from Indigenous peoples in a general sense, or</li> <li>descent from members of the respective First Nation, or</li> <li>a specific blood quantum, or</li> <li>the child's eligibility to register as an Indian, or</li> <li>among other qualifications.</li> </ul>	Some membership codes combine such limitations. For example, to be entitled to membership at Cumberland House Cree Nation (Saskatchewan) in the mid-1980s, an adoptee had to meet three qualifications, namely, she/he must be a person of "one-half (1/2) Indian blood, and is a descendant of a member of the Cumberland House Cree Nation" and be a child under the age of 18 at the time of adoption.	Conversely, some section 10 membership codes have less restrictive provisions around adoption and grant an adopted child membership regardless of their registration status or descent. For example, according to Caldwell First Nation's (Ontario) original membership code, a child under the age of 18 becomes a member of the band upon adoption by members of the band without needing to meet further requirements.

### OF 150 SECTION 10 MEMBERSHIP CODES THAT PROVIDE AN ADOPTION-BASED MEMBERSHIP ENTITLEMENT...



It is also worthwhile noting the types of adoption that section 10 First Nations recognize in those codes that provide adoption-based entitlement to band membership. These "types" include reference to,

- legal adoption,
- adoption by Indian custom,
- adoption by custom of the band,
- or adoption by a nation-specific custom such as Ahousaht tradition and custom.

At times, some First Nations accept adoption as a basis for membership entitlement without defining the type of adoption recognized.

### OF THE 150 SECTION 10 BANDS THAT PERMIT ADOPTION...

