

Everyone deserves a **NAME!**

What is the Name Act?

The Name Act is the law about legal name changes in BC.

How was the Act changed?

In 2024, the BC government passed Bill 26, the Name Amendment Act (No 2) and changed the Name Act to ban access to legal name changes for people with certain criminal records.

Now, everyone applying for a legal name change, including all children over 12, have to pass a criminal records check. They also have to agree to let the BC's Vital Statistics Agency (the government agency in charge of legal name changes) share their information with the RCMP. This causes additional costs and delays of around 4 months.

Why should the changes be repealed?

The 2024 changes to the Name Act leads to human rights violations in two ways:

- 1) The changes impose a blanket ban on people with certain criminal records, even in cases where a transgender person requires a name change, an Indigenous person seeks to reclaim an Indigenous name, or a survivor of violence or stalking needs a name change to protect themselves. Where chosen names and legal names do not match, this leads to deadnaming and barriers to employment, housing, healthcare, and social services.
- 2) The changes make the application process slower, more costly, and more intrusive for everyone.

The changes were not necessary to protect the public. The Name Act already contained provisions to prevent fraud and abuse. Easy access to a chosen legal name is a human right and a Charter right. Recognizing Indigenous names is essential to advancing reconciliation and decolonization.

Everyone deserves the basic dignity of a name.

What can you do about it?

Changing your name should be as simple as changing your address.

Join us to call on the province to repeal the changes to the Name Act and improve access to identity documents!

**Sign our petition at
westcoastleaf.org/name-act**



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