

**MNO Registry Guideline  
Verification for being a Candidate for or Holding  
Elected Office within the MNO**

<b>Purpose</b>	This guideline outlines the MNO Registry's verification process.
<b>Effective Date</b>	This guideline was developed by the MNO Registry based on its longstanding verification process in November 2010 and is effective immediately. It was provided for information purposes to the PCMNO on November 14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2010.
<b>Background on and Context</b>	<p>One of the MNO's goals, as set out in the <i>MNO Statement of Prime Purpose</i>, is "to establish, publish and promote the genealogical documentation of the Métis, and to establish and maintain a registry of the Métis citizens of Ontario."</p> <p>In order to advance this goal, the MNO created the MNO Registry in 1993. The MNO Registry has been central to the MNO's credibility and its ability to advance Métis rights and self-government in Ontario. The MNO Registry ensures that the MNO is a Métis-specific government that represents Métis people in Ontario at the local, regional and provincial levels. The MNO Registry also creates an objectively verifiable system to identify Métis rights-holders in Ontario.</p> <p>In 1999, the MNO Annual General Assembly directed the MNO to establish a verification process for MNO citizens who want to run and hold elected office in the MNO. This direction was based on the principle that Ontario Métis wanted to ensure they are being represented by other Métis people at the local, regional and provincial levels throughout the province. The principle continues to underlie the MNO's verification process.</p> <p>To date, the MNO verification process, as implemented by the MNO Registry, has focused on whether a MNO citizen has a completed Registry file (i.e., documents that verify the individual self-identifies as Métis, a completed MNO Registry application form, a completed family tree with supporting documents, a copy of the individual's long form birth certificate). Verification has not required that all MNO citizens meet the MNO's current definition of Métis, since the MNO's requirements for citizenship have changed over the last 17 years. Put simply, the verification process has focused on the administrative completeness of a MNO Registry file, not whether an individual's file establishes Métis ancestry that meets the MNO's current citizenship requirements, as set out in the MNO Bylaws.</p> <p>Since the MNO's creation in 1993, there have been significant changes within the MNO as well as legal developments that have had an impact on the MNO Registry. The MNO has never had the resources to extensively consult on these issues with Métis citizens and communities. These realities have created challenges for the</p>

MNO Registry and clear direction from Métis citizens is required on how to move forward on several important issues the MNO Registry must eventually deal with. The 2010 MNO Annual General Assembly passed a resolution for the MNO to “initiate a province-wide, multi-phased consultation process on Métis identification and registration issues in order to develop consensus-based solutions to move the MNO forward based on its *Statement of Prime Purpose* and ultimate goals of advancing Métis rights and self-government in Ontario.”

The 2010 MNO Annual General Assembly also provided direction to the MNO that “while these consultations are ongoing the longstanding MNO Registry verification processes for existing MNO citizens to run and hold office will be maintained.”

This guideline provides clarity to MNO citizens on the longstanding verification process the MNO will continue to use for individuals who want to be a candidate for an elected position within the MNO and hold an elected position within the MNO, while these Métis identification and registration consultations are ongoing.

#### Guideline

In order to be a candidate for an elected position or to hold an elected position within the MNO, all MNO citizens must meet the requirements as set out in the *MNO Electoral Code: Part A (Provincial Elections)* and the *MNO Electoral Code: Part B (Community Council Elections)*.

More specifically, this policy clarifies what is required in order for a MNO citizen to be “verified” by the MNO Registrar pursuant to s. 6.3(g) of the *MNO Electoral Code: Part A (Provincial Elections)* and s. B7.3(d) of the *MNO Electoral Code: Part B (Community Council Elections)*.

#### Requirements for verification

In order to be “verified” by the MNO Registry pursuant to s. 6.3(g) of the *MNO Electoral Code: Part A (Provincial Elections)* and s. B7.3(d) of the *MNO Electoral Code: Part B (Community Council Elections)*, an existing MNO citizen must have the following documentation within their MNO Registry file:

1. A signed waiver that they self-identify as Métis,
2. A completed MNO Registry application form (current or older versions are acceptable),
3. A long form birth certificate,
4. A family tree with some supporting documentation for the family tree, and
5. Up to date contact information (i.e., mailing address, phone number, etc.).

#### The Verification Process

Upon receiving a written request from a MNO electoral officer to confirm whether a list of potential candidates for elected positions within the MNO have been verified pursuant to the requirements of the *MNO Electoral Code: Part A (Provincial Elections)* or the *MNO Electoral Code: Part B (Community Council Elections)*, the MNO Registry will determine whether the proposed candidates have already been

verified. If the candidates have already been verified, the MNO Registry will write to the MNO electoral officer informing him or her of this.

If some of the proposed candidates have not yet been verified, the MNO Registry will conduct a review of the proposed candidate's Registry file pursuant to the verification requirements set out above. After this review by the MNO Registry, if the previously unverified MNO citizen meets the verification requirements set out above, the MNO Registrar will write to the relevant MNO electoral officer that the MNO citizen has been "verified" for the purposes of being a candidate for any elected position within the MNO.

If, upon completion of a review by the MNO Registry, a MNO citizen does not meet the verification requirements set out above, the MNO Registrar will write to the relevant MNO electoral officer that the MNO citizen has not been "verified" for the purposes of being a candidate for an elected position within the MNO. At this time, the MNO Registry will also write to the MNO citizen stating that they have not been verified and outlining what documentation is required from them in order to be verified.

It is the responsibility of the MNO citizen who desires to be a candidate for elected office within MNO to provide the MNO Registry with all required documentation needed in order to be verified.

**No need for a MNO citizen to be re-verified**

If an MNO citizen has already been verified by the MNO Registry, the MNO Registry will not need to re-verify a MNO citizen. For greater clarity, a previous verification by the MNO Registry will suffice for the purposes of meeting the requirements of s. 6.3(g) of the *MNO Electoral Code: Part A (Provincial Elections)* or s. B7.3(d) of the *MNO Electoral Code: Part B (Community Council Elections)*].

**Verification is not an absolute right to be a candidate**

Verification does not equate to an absolute right for a MNO citizen to be a candidate for an elected position within the MNO. All of the other requirements set out in the *MNO Electoral Code: Part A (Provincial Elections)* and the *MNO Electoral Code: Part B (Community Council Elections)* must still be met by prospective candidates.

**Policy doesn't change existing electoral codes**

Nothing in this guideline changes, alters or amends the *MNO Electoral Code: Part A (Provincial Elections)* or the *MNO Electoral Code: Part B (Community Council Elections)*.