

# MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

## INFORMATION BULLETIN

### Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Registry & Self-Government Readiness Process (RSRP) - The Registry Review – Feb 27, 2018

This information bulletin is intended to provide Community Councils and Citizens with further details related to the MNO's Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (RSRP). This process being referred to as the Registry & Self-Government Readiness Process ("RSRP") or the "Registry Review" involves a review of all MNO Citizen files and is part of preparing for self-government negotiations and the issuing of new MNO Citizenship Cards. Background information along with frequently asked questions was initially distributed to all MNO Community Council Presidents, Senators, and the Executives of the MNO Youth, Veterans' and Women's Councils in October, 2017 and posted on the MNO website at <http://www.metisnation.org/>. More recently in December 2017 an article with FAQ's appeared in the Métis Voyageur newspaper and a Town Hall information session was held with Community Council President's to address questions about the RSRP.

As to be expected with a process such as this there has been many questions about the Registry Review and also a great deal of misinformation and misunderstandings about the current decisions made and the path forward. Similar to the MNO's response to the misinformation that was advanced by some during and after the passage of the *MNO Secretariat Act*, the MNO has developed this bulletin in order to provide MNO Citizens with specific facts and additional background information.

Included with this bulletin are copies of two recently passed Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario ("PCMNO") resolutions related to the RSRP as well as copies of the backgrounder and FAQ on the RSRP.

The PCMNO passed the following resolutions on the RSRP (copies are attached):

1. a resolution initiating the review of all citizenship files on October 22nd, 2017;
2. a resolution following through on the requirements of section 23(i) of the MNO Bylaws. Section 23(i) of the MNO Bylaws requires that all PCMNO Councillors meet the MNO's current definition or their office may be deemed vacated. This provision in the MNO Bylaws was adopted by the MNO AGA to ensure those holding position on PCMNO are verified as Métis and rights-holders, since they are making decisions on behalf of other rights-holders.



Frequently Asked Questions	Specific Details on the RSRP
<p><i>What is this Registry Review process all about?</i></p>	<p>For an overview of the Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (“RSRP”) see the article and FAQs in the December 2017 Métis Voyageur or under the section entitled <i>The Path to Self-Government</i> on the MNO website at <a href="http://www.metisnation.org/">www.metisnation.org/</a>.</p> <p>Council members and Citizens are invited and encouraged to ask questions or request more information at any time.</p> <p>MNO administration is prepared to schedule presentations and town hall sessions for Communities and Citizens.</p> <p>Feel free to reach out to members of the Provisional Council, MNO Registry or MNO’s Senior Administration:          Joanne Meyer          Chief Operating Officer          Métis Nation of Ontario          Suite 311, 75 Sherbourne Street          Toronto, On M5A 2P9          (W): (416) 977-9881 x 101          (C): (416) 528-6152  <a href="mailto:joannem@metisnation.org">joannem@metisnation.org</a></p> <p>Jennifer St. Germain          Chief Strategy Officer          Métis Nation of Ontario          500 Old St. Patrick Street          Ottawa, ON K1N 9G4          (W): 613-798-1488 ext. 101          (C): 613-858-2284  <a href="mailto:jennifers@metisnation.org">jennifers@metisnation.org</a></p>
<p><i>What has the PCMNO actually done?</i></p>	<p>The PCMNO passed the following resolutions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. a resolution initiating the citizenship file review;</li> <li>2. a resolution following through on the requirements of section 23(i) of the MNO Bylaws. Section 23(i) of the MNO Bylaws requires that all PCMNO Councillors meet the MNO’s current definition or their office may be deemed vacated. This provision in the MNO Bylaws was adopted by the MNO AGA to ensure those holding position on PCMNO are verified as Métis and rights-holders, since they are making decisions on behalf of other rights-holders. *Copies of resolutions are attached.</li> </ol>

<p><i>Are these resolutions consistent with the MNO By-laws, the MNO Registry Policy and Bill 153 in that they apply criteria contained in these MNO laws and policy?</i></p>	<p>Yes, the RSRP is based on reviewing whether existing MNO citizen files meet the current MNO definition of Métis—as set out in section 4(a) of the MNO Bylaws and Registry Policy—which have both been adopted by MNO AGAs.</p>
<p><i>What is the Resolution regarding PCMNO Councillors all about?</i></p>	<p>The review of PCMNO Councillor files is based on Section 23(i) of the MNO Bylaws which expressly provides: “<i>the office of a [PCMNO] councillor may be deemed vacated ... (i) where the PCMNO determines that a councillor is not entitled to be registered as a citizen of the MNO pursuant to 4(a).</i>”</p> <p>PCMNO Councillors with incomplete citizenship files have been given 5 months to complete their file. The 1997 MNO AGA adopted this MNO Bylaw requirement because PCMNO Councillors make significant decisions about the MNO and Métis rights. This requirement has been in place for over 20 years.</p>
<p><i>Does the resolution on PCMNO files apply to Community Councillors and MNO Citizens?</i></p>	<p>No, the resolution on the review of the PCMNO files does not apply to MNO Community Council leadership or to MNO Citizens. The PCMNO review is based on Section 23 (i) of the MNO Bylaws and there is no similar provision for Councillors or Citizens.</p>
<p><i>Is this process about removal of Citizens?</i></p>	<p>No, the RSRP is not about removal, it is about gathering critical details about who the MNO represents as it prepares for Self-Government.</p> <p>Since 2008, enhanced Registry procedures and policies have been in place and well over 10,000 MNO Citizens have been approved based on transparent and objectively verifiable standards.</p> <p>Moreover, these PCMNO resolutions cannot and do not remove existing MNO Citizens from the Registry. Only a duly passed Special Resolution of the MNO AGA could do that.</p>

<p><i>How are Citizens being notified about the status of their files?</i></p>	<p>The MNO Registry (in partnership with Know History) is currently reviewing all citizenship files to determine how many files are complete, or incomplete. Letters will be sent to all MNO Citizens that provide details on what exactly, if anything is missing from their files. Those with complete files will receive a letter verifying that their file documents meet the MNO's current definition of Métis and as soon as the newly designed card is ready they will receive a new MNO Citizenship Card. A report on the results of the RSRP will be presented to the 2018 MNO AGA.</p>
<p><i>Is the current MNO Citizenship Card still valid?</i></p>	<p>Yes, your existing MNO Citizenship Card remains valid.</p>
<p><i>Do MNO Community councils and MNO Citizens have a say in this process?</i></p>	<p>Yes, as noted above, the results of the RSRP will be brought to the next MNO AGA for discussion and potential action.</p>