

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Re: Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Registry & Self-Government Readiness Process (RSRP) – “The Registry Review”

Information Bulletin: PCMNO Meeting of March 2, 3, 4th 2018:

This information bulletin is intended to provide MNO Community Councils and Citizens with the most recent updates related to the MNO’s Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (RSRP) which includes specific details on two resolutions that were passed by consensus during the Provisional Council of the Metis Nation of Ontario (“PCMNO”) meeting held on March 2, 3, 4th 2018.

Background on the 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 was posted on the MNO website. 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 about the RSRP.

On Feb 28, 2018 an RSRP information bulletin was circulated through MNO Communications to all MNO Community Council Presidents, Senators, and the Executives of the MNO Youth, Veterans’ and Women’s Councils that provided further updates about the RSRP and those details were posted under the ***Path to Self Government*** section of the MNO website at <http://www.metisnation.org/>.

There have 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. MNO is committed to providing ongoing updates to MNO Community Councils and MNO Citizens as any new developments or decisions are made related to the RSRP.



Métis Nation of Ontario
Secretariat

Métis Nation
of Ontario 

Details from the Feb 28, 2018 Information Bulletin - RSRP:

During meetings of the PCMNO in October and November 2017 there were two resolutions passed that effectively launched the RSRP and the file review of the PCMNO elected leadership in accordance with Section 23 (i) of the MNO Bylaws (copies of these resolutions were circulated on February 28, 2018 and can be found on the MNO website):

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 in 1997 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.

Current Update:

Included with this bulletin are details of two resolutions that were passed by consensus during the most recent PCMNO meeting of March 2, 3, 4th 2018. These include:

1. An amendment to resolution **PC171118-10** from the November 17-19, 2017 meeting to extend the timeline for all PCMNO Councillors to complete their Registry file to one year, moving the end date from March 31st, 2018 to November 4, 2018.
2. An amendment to resolution **PC 1800203-05** for the Registry Review of the elected leadership of MNO Community Councils to provide one year from the receipt of the letter from the MNO Registrar to complete their Registry files.

Frequently Asked Questions	Specific Details on the RSRP
<i>What is this Registry Review process all about?</i>	<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 www.metisnation.org/.</p> <p>Council members and Citizens are invited and encouraged to ask questions or request more information at any time. 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 or MNO's Senior Administration:</p> <p>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 joannem@metisnation.org</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 jennifers@metisnation.org</p>
<p><i>What are these resolutions all about?</i></p>	<p>The PCMNO passed the following resolutions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A resolution initiating the citizenship file review process (now referred to as the RSRP or Registry Review) which detailed that the review and the timelines must be “fair and reasonable”; 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 in 1997 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. 3. An amendment to resolution PC171118-10 from the November 17-19, 2017 meeting to extend the timeline for all PCMNO Councillors to complete their Registry file to one year, moving the end date from March 31st, 2018 to November 4, 2018. 4. An amendment to resolution PC 1800203-05 for the Registry Review of the elected leadership of MNO Community Councils to provide one year from the receipt of the letter from the MNO Registrar to complete their Registry files.

<p><i>What is the criteria being applied in this Registry Review?</i></p>	<p>MNO Citizenship files are being reviewed based upon 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 were initially given five months to complete their Registry file and that has now been extended to one year.</p> <p>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>Elected MNO Community Councillors have been provided one year to complete their files upon receipt of the letter from the MNO Registry with further actions and next steps to be part of the discussions of the 2018 Annual General Assembly.</p> <p>Decisions related to MNO Citizens can only be made through a Special Resolution at a MNO General Assembly.</p> <p>PCMNO have provided direction for the preparation of a draft Special Resolution (to be circulated well before the AGA) to provide two years notification for MNO Citizens.</p>

	Further actions or decisions on MNO Citizens will be up to MNO Citizens to decide.
<i>Is this process about removal of Citizens?</i>	<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>
<i>How are Citizens being notified about the status of their files?</i>	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 will receive a new MNO Citizenship Card. A report on the results of the RSRP will be presented to the 2018 MNO AGA.
<i>Is the current MNO Citizenship Card still valid?</i>	Yes, the existing MNO Citizenship Card remains valid.
<i>Do MNO Community councils and MNO Citizens have a say in this process?</i>	Yes, as noted above, the results of the RSRP will be brought to the next MNO AGA for discussion and potential action.