

# Métis Nation of Ontario

## REGISTRY AND SELF-GOVERNMENT READINESS PROCESS RELEVANT SECTIONS OF MNO BYLAWS AND REGISTRY POLICY

### 1. The MNO Bylaws

#### Current MNO Citizenship Requirements (MNO Bylaws, Articles 3-5)

3. It is a condition of citizenship that individual members commit to uphold and advance the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose, which is attached to and forms part of these Bylaws as Appendix A, as the foundational and guiding objects, principles and aspirations of the MNO.
4. Citizenship in the MNO shall be limited to individuals interested in furthering the objects of the MNO and who are Métis within the definition adopted by the MNO, which is as follows:
  - (a) Métis means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation.
5. A person is entitled to be registered as a citizen of MNO who:
  - (a) provides sufficient documentation that he or she is Métis within the meaning of 4(a);
  - (b) is not enrolled on any other Aboriginal registry; and
  - (c) applied for admission as a citizen and has been approved through the Registry process of the MNO as amended from time to time.

#### MNO Statement of Prime Purpose (MNO Bylaws, Appendix A)

##### Who We Are As A People

We, the Métis are a people of the lands, which gave rise to our history and tradition and culture.

We call those lands the Métis Homelands. The Homelands stretch from the lakes and rivers of Ontario; cross the wide prairies, traverse the mountains into British Columbia and into the northern reaches of the Northwest Territories. They include the hills and valleys of the north-central American States. ...

We, the Métis who live within the Métis Homelands of Ontario, desiring to bind our people together to collectively promote our common cultural, social, political, and economic well-being, have founded the Métis Nation of Ontario, to be our representative body with the following aims and objectives:

- to research, publish and promote the genealogical documentation of the Métis, and to establish and maintain a registry of the Métis Citizens of Ontario; ...

## **2. The MNO Registry Policy**

### **MNO Registry Policy—Introduction**

“All individuals applying for citizenship within the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) must follow and meet the requirements of the MNO Registry Policy (the “Policy”). Collectively, this Policy includes this document as well as the attached guidelines, backgrounder and two appendices. Nothing in this Policy alters the MNO Bylaws or the MNO’s definition for citizenship. This Policy provides guidance on how the MNO Bylaws and the MNO’s definition for citizenship are to be interpreted. It also outlines the administrative processes to be followed for registration. The MNO Registrar must follow the MNO Registry Policy.”

“Many historic documents identify mixed-race aboriginal individuals using terms other than “Métis”. Such terms may include but are not limited to: chicot, bois-brule, half-breed, French breed, other breed, etc. There is no requirement that an applicant must provide a document that specifically uses the term “Métis”. Documents using these other descriptive terms may, taken together with other evidence, be acceptable as proof of Métis ancestry.”

“The MNO asserts that the Historic Métis Nation Homeland in Ontario is the territory identified in the map attached as Appendix A. If an applicant can demonstrate a genealogical connection to a Métis ancestor who identified or was recognized as a Métis who lived in this territory in the late 1700s or later, that will suffice to demonstrate an ancestral connection to a Métis ancestor. In applying this policy statement, the MNO recognizes that its identified Métis traditional territories are not defined with absolute precision. So, for example, if an applicant has a Métis ancestor who lived just outside one of these identified Métis traditional territories or over the United States or Quebec border the applicant may meet the requirement for demonstrating a Métis ancestor.”

### **MNO Registry Policy—Guidelines**

“The Registrar shall only register applicants who are citizens of the Métis Nation within the meaning of the Métis Nation Citizenship Definition in the MNO Registry Policy — Backgrounder.”

“It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide all of the required documents to support an application.”

“Applications that are incomplete will not be accepted for registration.”

#### *Proof of Historic Métis Nation Ancestry*

“The applicant must prove Historic Métis Nation ancestry by providing evidence of a genealogical connection to a Métis ancestor who lived in the Historic Métis Nation Homeland after 1750.”

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“There is some flexibility with respect to the exact boundaries of the Métis Nation Homeland. For example, proof that an applicant’s ancestor lived just over the Ontario border in the United States or in Quebec may meet the requirement for demonstrating a Métis ancestor. An applicant must provide documentary proof that links the applicant through each generation to a Métis ancestor.”

“Without more, genealogical proof that the applicant had an Indian ancestor is not sufficient to prove Métis ancestry.”

“Without more, genealogical proof that the applicant had a mixed-race ancestor who lived outside the Historic Métis Nation Homeland is not a sufficient to prove Métis ancestry.”

“Without more, genealogical proof that an applicant had a mixed-race ancestor who lived prior to 1750 is not sufficient to prove Métis ancestry.”

## **MNO Registry Policy—Backgrounder**

“The Métis are the children of the fur trade and the unions between Indian women and Euro-Canadian men in what was historically known as west central North America or the North West. While the children of the earliest Indian and Euro-Canadian unions had mixed ancestry, the creation of a distinct Métis identity and culture was a process that took some time. It was the subsequent intermarriages between these men and women of mixed ancestry that resulted in the genesis of a new aboriginal society by the late 1700s, which we call the Historic Métis Nation.”

“The Historic Métis Nation developed a collective identity and consciousness, a language (Michif with regional dialects), a distinctive culture and a way of life. The Historic Métis Nation lived in, used and occupied a large territory from Ontario to British Columbia and includes parts of the Northwest Territories and the northwestern United States. The Métis call this area the Métis Nation Homeland.”