

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Re: Métis Nation of Ontario Registry & Self-Government Readiness Process (RSRP) – “The Registry Review” – Update as of April 12, 2018

This information bulletin provides Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Community Councils and Citizens with the most recent updates related to the MNO’s Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (—RSRP) also being referred to as the —Registry Review. The RSRP involves a review of all MNO Citizenship files to assess that they meet the current MNO definition of Métis—as set out in section 4(a) of the *MNO Bylaws and Registry Policy*—which has been adopted by MNO Citizens during Annual General Assemblies.

This bulletin deals with recent questions that have been raised:

1. What is the rationale for a review of all MNO Citizenship files (RSRP) and for the issuing of new MNO Citizenship Cards, and why is MNO doing this now?
2. Is the decision to conduct a review of MNO Citizenship in line with the MNO’s existing policies or Bylaws?
3. When can MNO Citizens expect to receive letters from the MNO Registry about the RSRP? What will be in the letters?
4. Are there other reasons for conducting the file review and issuing new MNO Citizenship Cards?

BACKGROUND ON THE RSRP:

For the past 25 years the MNO has been mandated by its Citizens and Communities to advance the rights, interests and aspirations of Metis Nation of Ontario Citizens throughout Ontario. The MNO’s foundational document, the Statement of Prime Purpose, sets out two key principles among a series of priorities, these are:

- *to research, publish and promote the genealogical documentation of the Métis, and to establish and maintain a registry of the Métis Citizens of Ontario;*
- *to establish democratic institutions based on our inherent right of self-government;*

The Registry Review directly aligns with these principles and priorities and will assure the integrity of the MNO Registry which is essential as we prepare for Self-Government negotiations.



Métis Nation of Ontario
Secretariat

Métis Nation
of Ontario 
— 25 YEARS —

THE DECISION TO INITIATE THE FILE REVIEW (RSRP)

The October 23rd PCMNO Resolution to initiate the RSRP did not alter the MNO Bylaws or the Registry Policy in any way — it only directs a —review of all existing Registry files to determine whether they meet the —current requirements for MNO citizenship. As such, a Bylaw change or Special Resolution was not required. As the RSRP has moved ahead additional resolutions have been passed that clarify the process and make it clear that information about the RSRP will be brought to the AGA for MNO Citizens to consider and decide on the path forward. In accordance with MNO Bylaws, decisions that attempt to change the existing Registry Policy or MNO Bylaws must be brought to the MNO AGA by way of Special Resolution.

Since the launch of the RSRP the MNO has continued to provide updates to MNO Community Councils through a series of email bulletins and frequently asked questions. These details are posted on the MNO website under the ***Path to Self Government*** section at <http://www.metisnation.org>. Updates are also included in the *Métis Voyageur* newspaper.

At any time MNO Communities and Citizens are encouraged to reach out to members of the Provisional Council or MNO’s Senior Administration for more information:

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There have been many questions about the Registry Review and a great deal of misinformation and misunderstandings about decisions made and the process overall. The MNO is committed to providing ongoing updates and welcomes and encourages MNO Citizens to ask questions and request for further details at any time. **This is all about MNO Citizens and it will be up to MNO Citizens to decide the path forward.**

QUESTION	Background & Key Details
<p>1) What is the rationale for initiating a review of all MNO Citizenship files (RSRP) and for the issuing of new MNO Citizenship Cards? And why is MNO doing this now?</p>	<p>Achieving self-government for Métis people in Ontario will require that MNO knows exactly who it represents and has full confidence in the objectively verifiable Registry system.</p> <p>The MNO took a significant step closer to self-government on December 11, 2017 with the signing of the <i>MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agreement</i> (information about this agreement appears in the April edition of the <i>Metis Voyageur</i> newspaper and is posted on the MNO website).</p> <p>As the MNO prepares to enter into further negotiations on Métis rights, self-government and outstanding Métis claims against the Crown, the credibility of the MNO Registry is essential. So, in October 2017, the PCMNO directed that a review of all MNO Citizenship files be conducted (a copy of this resolution is on the MNO website).</p> <p>The file review is being conducted based upon the <u>MNO's existing and AGA approved</u> Registry Policy and Bylaws. The decision to initiate a review of all files did NOT alter or change any of these foundational documents.</p> <p>The new MNO Citizenship Card will be issued to MNO Citizens with complete files and will identify the card holder as a Metis rights holder under Section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i>.</p> <p>This process is all about advancing Métis rights, moving toward self-government, and assuring the credibility of the MNO Registry.</p>
<p>2) Is the decision to conduct a review of MNO Citizenship files in line with the MNO's existing policies or Bylaws?</p>	<p>Yes, the decision to initiate a review of all MNO Registry files was directed through a resolution passed by the PCMNO and is being conducted based upon the current definition of Métis – as set out in section 4 (a) of the MNO Bylaws and Registry Policy – which have both been adopted by MNO Citizens at an AGA.</p> <p>There have been no decisions made related to the RSRP that create a new class of MNO citizenship</p>

	<p>or that remove MNO citizenship — only a duly passed Special Resolution of the MNO AGA could do that.</p> <p>In accordance with the AGA-approved MNO Bylaws, the PCMNO, as directors of the MNO Secretariat, are responsible to manage the business of the MNO, uphold the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose and ensure the MNO Bylaws are followed. The RSRP is consistent with these obligations and is consistent with advancing the MNO’s overall mandate to advance Métis rights and self-government.</p> <p>The PCMNO has emphasized that information on the RSRP will be brought to the MNO AGA 2018 and it will be up to the AGA – MNO Citizens -- to make decisions on the path forward.</p>
<p>3) When can MNO Citizens expect to receive their letters from the MNO Registry? What will be in the letters?</p>	<p>The MNO Registry in partnership with Know History (an independent third-party contractor) is currently reviewing all citizenship files to determine how many files are complete, or incomplete. The review is based on the MNO’s existing Bylaws and Registry policy that have been adopted by MNO Citizens at previous MNO AGAs.</p> <p>The RSRP is a file review -- it is NOT a re-registration process.</p> <p>Every citizenship file will be reviewed over the coming months. Citizens do not need to take any action to initiate their citizenship file review.</p> <p>The initial PCMNO resolution stipulated that the -review begin with the elected leadership on the PCMNO and Community Councils. MNO Community Council leadership can expect to receive their letters in the mail in the coming weeks. Other MNO Citizens throughout Ontario can expect to start receiving their letters in the Spring/Summer 2018.</p> <p>Letters will provide details on what exactly, if anything, is missing from a MNO Citizen’s file.</p>

Those with complete files will receive a letter verifying that their file documents meet the MNO's current definition of Métis and will receive a new MNO Citizenship Card (as soon as the new card is produced).

[Click here to view a sample of the letter provided to community council councilors whose files are complete.](#)

Those with incomplete files will receive a letter that details what is missing and what is required to complete their file.

[Click here to view a sample of the letter provided to community council councilors whose files are not complete.](#)

These letters (whether complete or incomplete) do not change or alter the MNO Bylaws or Registry Policy, and they do not remove MNO citizenship.

A report on the results of the RSRP will be presented to the 2018 MNO AGA and it will be up to MNO Citizens in assembly to decide the path forward.

The letters that will be sent to MNO Citizens will be specific to each file but largely contain the same general information. A copy of the draft RSRP review letters are attached for your information.

<p>4) Are there other reasons for conducting this file review and for issuing new MNO Citizenship Cards?</p>	<p>Yes, there are other reasons for completing the RSRP.</p> <p>Over the past 25 years the MNO Registry has changed significantly in its operational capacity and assessment standards.</p> <p>The definition of Métis was clarified in 2004 by requiring that applications for MNO Citizenship demonstrate Métis ancestry rather than simply proving Aboriginal ancestry. This definition was adopted by MNO Citizens at the AGA 2004.</p> <p>Given the lack of sustainable, long term funding for the MNO Registry it has taken many years to build the capacity and enhance the objectively verifiable systems of the MNO Registry. Even now, there remains more work to be done.</p>
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	<p>Over the years the MNO Registry has received a series of recommendations from independently conducted assessments including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) conduct a review of all Registry files2) digitize all Registry files3) produce a MNO Citizenship Card that includes enhanced security provisions like a signature block, home address and expiry dates. <p>The RSRP will be able to address these recommendations and others that were identified.</p> <p>The new MNO Citizenship card has been designed so it can be used as government recognized identification in the future. It will include a section for a signature block, address and expiry date.</p> <p>When the RSRP is complete it is expected that the overall administrative systems will be strengthened, and the result will be a more credible, transparent and accountable MNO Registry.</p>
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