This progress report has been developed to share with MNO Community Councils and Citizens throughout Ontario the preliminary results of the MNO’s Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (RSRP) and update on current Registry processes and the future of the MNO Registry system.

BACKGROUND ON THE RSRP:

In October 2017 the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) launched a review of all MNO Citizenship files in anticipation of formal self-government and Métis rights negotiations with Canada and Ontario. This review process being referred to as the Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (RSRP) or the “Registry Review” involves a review of Citizenship files to determine if they are complete based upon the MNO’s existing Bylaws and Registry Policy. The MNO engaged Know History (an independent third-party contractor) to conduct the review and as a result of this review new systems are being developed that will substantially strengthen the MNO Registry. Information and updates on the RSRP continue to be posted on the MNO website at www.metisnation.org/news-media/news/rsrp-1 and included in the Métis Voyageur.

There have been many questions about the Registry Review and a great deal of misinformation and misunderstandings about the current decisions made and the path forward. This progress report provides key statistics and updates directly coming out of the Registry Review.

THE RESULTS TO DATE:

The preliminary results from the RSRP are very encouraging. The results show that of the 4,000 files assessed to date the majority of the files are meeting the current requirements for MNO Citizenship set out in the MNO Bylaws and Registry Policy. A total of 60.5% are fully complete with an additional 16.5% of the files that will be complete upon receipt of the additional identified documents. Bringing the total number of complete files over 77%:

- Approximately 13,000 of 20,000 Citizenship files have received a preliminary review.
- Approximately 4,000 of the 13,000 Citizenship files have been through a full assessment
- More than 70% of the 4,000 Citizenship files assessed to date are pre-2009 when the MNO Annual General Assembly adopted the MNO Registry Policy. A large number of files are also from pre-2004 when the MNO’s capacity and funding for the Registry was extremely limited and registration process not clearly defined.

The results demonstrate that Citizenship files from all time periods in MNO’s 25 year history are being confirmed as Complete.

The RSRP will continue throughout the summer, and a much more in-depth report will be provided to Citizens at the upcoming MNO Annual General Assembly in Peterborough, Ontario.
CURRENT UPDATE:
All MNO Citizenship files are being reviewed. Over the summer and into the fall, MNO Citizens that have up-to-date contact information will receive a letter from the MNO Registry by regular mail that provides information about their file. The letter will include specific detail about what, if anything is missing from a file. Citizens are encouraged to ensure your address and email is up-to-date with the MNO Registry (email registryclerk@metisnation.org).

NEXT STEPS:
The new MNO Citizenship Card has been designed and developed and is now ready for release.

The new MNO Citizenship card has been designed so it has the potential to be used as government recognized identification in the future. It includes enhanced security features, a section for your address, an expiry date and a signature block. Citizens are encouraged to complete the Consent to Collect and Use Information form which includes the signature line and also provides for the ability for a Citizen’s file to be linked with other family members. This form can be scanned or mailed to the MNO Registry and can be found at:

RSRP - AN IMPROVED REGISTRY FOR THE FUTURE:
New systems and administrative procedures are already being developed and implemented as a result of the RSRP and below are key highlights.

- The current backlog is being addressed and will be eliminated.
- All Citizenship files will be digitized for easier access and greater security (currently the MNO relies heavily on paper files which requires added costs for storage and poses challenges for accessibility)
- A new and significantly enhanced MNO Registry database system is being developed. This new database will be searchable and comprehensive and, with Citizens consent, able to make direct linkages between the files of family members which will greatly expedite the application process for new applicants.
- This improved database will also operate as an amazing repository of data and demographics of MNO Citizens and will directly link historical information to each Citizen’s file, creating a comprehensive record of each Citizen’s connection to their historic Métis community.
- Provincial, regional and community level statistical reports will be easily accessible which will inform research and program needs (currently the MNO Registry database does not have these capabilities).
- These technological and administrative improvements will ensure that Citizen inquiries and Citizenship applications are being reviewed, addressed and processed much more expeditiously.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
For an overview of the Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (“RSRP”) see The Path to Self-Government section on the MNO website at www.metisnation.org. Look for further updates on the MNO website, Facebook and Twitter. MNO Community Councils and MNO Citizens are invited and encouraged to ask questions or request more information at any time.