

Effective Date

This *Policy on MNO Registry and Research* (the “Policy”) is effective as of May 31, 2019 (the Effective Date”).

Definitions

“Genealogical Information” means any record, document, or other information that has been provided or will be provided by any individual to the MNO Registry for any purpose at any time, including but not limited to, through applications for citizenship or applications for an MNO Harvesters Card. For greater clarity, it includes all records, documentation, and information that is already in possession of the MNO Registry as of the effective date of this Policy.

All other terms in this Policy have the same meaning as within the MNO Bylaws.

Purpose

The Policy clarifies how the MNO Registry uses Genealogical Information for research purposes.

Applicability

This Policy applies to the MNO Registry and its use and disclosure of Genealogical Information.

Background and Context for Policy

One of the MNO’s fundamental objectives, as set out in the *MNO Statement of Prime Purpose*, is to research the genealogical documentation of the Métis, and to establish a registry of Métis citizens in Ontario. The MNO has furthered these interconnected objectives through the creation of the MNO Registry.

The MNO Registry has always been the MNO’s primary research tool on the genealogical documentation of Métis. The MNO Registry necessarily engages in research to fulfill its mandate, including, to evaluate MNO citizenship applications, based on the MNO’s definition of Métis found in the *MNO Bylaws* and *MNO Registry Policy*.

In the past, the MNO had at times included in its citizenship application forms “permission to access” boxes or separate forms for this purpose. These forms asked applicants for permission to use Genealogical Information to complete the files of other applicants. However, the MNO

Registry has never been required by law, nor by the MNO's own policies, to maintain this "individual permission" system. With the MNO's growth and the MNO Registry's advancement to a fully electronic citizenship database, the MNO Registry will no longer maintain this unwieldy "individual permissions" system as of the effective date of this Policy.

Consistent with the *MNO Statement of Prime Purpose*, the *MNO Registry Policy*, and the *MNO Privacy Policy*, the MNO Registry will maintain its strict confidentiality standards. This means that no individual's personal information, as defined by law, will be shared outside of the MNO Registry unless the individual consents, the disclosure is authorized or required by law, or for research purposes. Any personal information shared outside the MNO Registry for research purposes will be subject to a strict confidentiality agreement with the research organization.

Policy

Whereas the *MNO Statement of Prime Purpose* provides that one of the aims and objectives of the MNO is "to research, publish and promote the genealogical documentation of the Métis, and to establish and maintain a registry of the Métis Citizens of Ontario";

And whereas the *MNO Registry Policy* provides that "MNO shall maintain the Registry as a confidential registry" and that "[n]o information shall be disclosed from any file except with the consent of the applicant or citizen or for research...";

And whereas the *MNO Privacy Policy* provides that "the [MNO] only collects personal information when [it is given] voluntarily";

And whereas the MNO Registry is maintained as the MNO's primary research tool on genealogical documentation of Métis;

Now therefore this Policy provides as follows:

1. Individuals who apply to the MNO voluntarily provide the MNO with Genealogical Information. Citizens may from time to time provide the MNO Registry with additional Genealogical Information, for instance, to add to their Registry file or to apply for an MNO Harvesters Card.
2. All Genealogical Information that has been provided or will be provided to the MNO Registry—for any reason—may become part of the MNO Registry database. The MNO Registry has the sole discretion to determine what Genealogical Information becomes part of and is used by the MNO Registry database.
3. The MNO Registry database and the Genealogical Information it contains is controlled by and owned by the MNO.
4. The MNO Registry database is a genealogical research tool of the MNO.
5. As per the *MNO Registry Policy*, the MNO Registry does not require individual permission to use Genealogical Information for the purposes of conducting research, including, researching the genealogy of applicants to the MNO for citizenship or for assisting to determine eligibility for an MNO Harvesters Card.

6. For greater clarity, the MNO Registry may use Genealogical Information for research purposes, but it will not disclose Genealogical Information that is considered “personal information” under applicable laws unless: authorized or required those laws to do so; with the consent of the individual; or subject to a research agreement that includes the agreement to keep personal information confidential.
7. For greater clarity, if an MNO citizen or applicant for citizenship requests a copy of their file from the MNO Registry, they will only receive copies of the Genealogical Information provided to the MNO Registry by that individual, regardless of whether other Genealogical Information was used by MNO Registry for the purposes of researching that individuals’ genealogy.

Adopted by the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario at a meeting held in Toronto, ON, on May 31, 2019.