

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

INFORMATION BULLETIN

NEW POLICY ON VERIFICATION OF CANDIDATES FOR HOLDING ELECTED OFFICE WITHIN THE MNO

Overview

- On February 3rd, 2018, the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (“PCMNO”) passed a resolution to adopt **MNO Policy #2018-001: Policy on Verification of Candidates for Holding Elected Office in the MNO** (“the Policy”). A copy of the Policy is attached to this Information Bulletin and is available on the MNO website at www.metisnation.org.
- The Policy sets out what is required in order for a MNO Citizen to be “verified” by the MNO Registrar for the purposes of being eligible to be a candidate under the MNO Electoral Code: Part A (Provincial Elections) or the MNO Electoral Code: Part B (Community Council Elections). Specifically, as of February 3rd, 2018, in order to be “verified,” a MNO Citizen’s Registry file must include the following:
 1. A completed MNO Registry Application form (current or older versions are acceptable); **and**
 2. Documents sufficient to meet the current requirements for citizenship as set out in the MNO Bylaws and Registry Policy; **and**
 3. Up to date contact information (*i.e.*, mailing address, phone number, *etc.*).
- Prior to this new Policy being adopted, the MNO Registrar would only assess whether there were any documents in a MNO Citizen’s Registry file, not whether the MNO Citizen’s file met the current requirements for citizenship within the MNO or verified them as a Métis rights-holder.
- Over the last 25 years, the MNO’s definition of Métis, along with the documents needed to meet the MNO’s definition of Métis, have changed. In particular, in 2004, the MNO’s definition of Métis was updated to require “Métis ancestry” rather than simply requiring “Aboriginal ancestry”. These requirements have been further clarified in the MNO Registry Policy that has been in place since 2009. The MNO Registry Policy was adopted by the MNO Annual General Assembly in 2014.
- In addition, successive MNO Annual General Assemblies have amended the MNO Bylaws to ensure that MNO Citizens and Métis communities are being represented at the local, regional and provincial levels by individuals who meet the MNO’s current definition of Métis and have been verified as a Métis rights-holder through the MNO Registry’s objectively verifiable system.



- Increasingly, the MNO’s elected leadership at the local, regional and provincial levels are being called upon to deal with issues that impact the constitutionally-protected rights of MNO Citizens and Métis communities. This Policy ensures that—going forward—all Citizens holding elected office within the MNO have been verified as meeting the MNO’s definition of Métis and are confirmed as Métis rights-holders.
- It is important to note that if an individual is not “verified” to be a candidate it does not necessarily mean the individual is not Métis. It simply means that based on the current documentation in that Citizen’s Registry file, the Registrar is not able to verify that the individual meets the MNO’s current definition of Métis and is a Métis rights-holder.
- If a MNO Citizen is not “verified” to be a candidate within an election because their Registry file is incomplete, they continue to be a MNO Citizen. If they subsequently provide the necessary documentation to the MNO Registry to complete their file, they will be “verified” to run as a candidate in a future election. The onus is on the Citizen who is planning on running for elected office within the MNO to ensure their Registry file is complete.
- This Policy will apply to all PCMNO and Community Council elections that happen after February 3rd, 2018. Nothing in this Policy changes, alters or amends the MNO Electoral Code: Part A (Provincial Elections) or the MNO Electoral Code: Part B (Community Council Elections). It only sets out what is required to be “verified” as a candidate for elected office within the MNO based on the definition of Métis that is set out on the MNO Bylaws and explained in the Registry Policy.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When does this Policy take effect?

A: Immediately. It will apply to all MNO elections held after February 3, 2018.

Q: I have been “verified” as a candidate in a previous MNO election. Do I need to be re-verified?

A: Yes. Candidates previously verified under old policies, processes or practices must be re-verified under the new Policy if choosing to run in future elections. Prior policies, processes and practices only looked at whether there were any documents in an individual’s Registry file. The new Policy requires the MNO Registrar to verify that an individual’s file meets the current MNO definition of Métis.

Q: I was not “verified” to be a candidate under the new Policy. What does that mean for my MNO citizenship?

A: You continue to be a MNO Citizen. This Policy only affects whether you can be a candidate in a MNO election.

Q: Why was this new Policy brought in?

A: Increasingly, the MNO's elected leadership at the local, regional and provincial levels are being called upon to deal with issues that impact the constitutionally-protected rights of MNO Citizens and Métis communities. This Policy ensures that—going forward—all MNO Citizens holding elected office within the MNO have been verified as meeting the MNO's definition of Métis and are confirmed as Métis rights-holders.

Q: If I am “verified” by the MNO Registry, does this automatically mean I am a candidate?

A: No. Verification is only one requirement to be a candidate in a MNO election. All other requirements—as set out in the *Electoral Codes, Part A and B* (as applicable)—must also be met. The relevant MNO Chief Electoral Officer for the election makes the final determinations with respect to who have met all of the requirements to be a candidate.