

know

**Métis Nation of Ontario
Registry and Self-Government
Readiness Review
Supplemental Report**

Submitted to:
Métis Nation of Ontario

Know History
Historical Services

September 23, 2021

Contents

RSRP SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT 3

Introduction 3

Background 3

Overview of the RSRP Workflow 4

RSRP Supplemental Report Outcomes 5

This report is submitted by Know History Inc.

Any questions about this document should be directed to:

Ryan Shackleton
ryan@knowhistory.ca
613-700-8677
384 Bank Street, Suite 300A
Ottawa, ON
K2P 1Y4

RSRP Supplemental Report

Introduction

In May 2021, Know History provided to the Métis Nation of Ontario (“**MNO**”) a copy of its final report on the Registry and Self-Government Readiness Review (the “**Final Report**”). The report provided background and methodology for work completed as part of the Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (“**RSRP**”), and the outcomes of the RSRP as of January 31, 2021.

Within this Final Report, 5,402 MNO citizens were determined to have “Incomplete” files, meaning that these files lacked a historic document or any records evidencing an ancestral connection to a Métis Ancestor as defined by the Registry Policy (the “**Registry Policy**”).

Through consultations that the MNO has undertaken on the Final Report, the MNO has heard from citizens that more specific details on the 5,402 “incomplete” citizenship files would be helpful. This Supplemental Report provides additional details on why these files are “incomplete” and provides updated statistics on the MNO Registry as of September 23, 2021.

Background

As explained in the Final Report, the RSRP was established to review of all of the MNO Registry’s citizenship files in order to determine whether and to what extent those files satisfy the current requirements for MNO citizenship as outlined in the Registry Policy.

In 2004, the MNO’s definition of “Métis” was changed in the MNO Bylaws in order to align with the National Definition of Métis that was adopted by various Métis governments through the Métis National Council General Assembly.

The Registry Policy was subsequently adopted by the PCMNO and ultimately by the MNO Annual General Assembly in order to explain “how” the MNO’s definition of “Métis”, as set out in the MNO Bylaws, is to be interpreted applied by the MNO Registrar.¹

¹ The Registry Policy is the “Registry process of the MNO as amended from time to time” as described in Article 5(c) of the MNO Bylaws. It must be followed by the MNO Registrar. For the purposes of the RSRP, the Registry Policy was applied to each citizenship file. It is available on the MNO website at: .

Specifically, the Registry Policy sets out four criteria that individuals applying for MNO citizenship must meet:

- i. Self-Identification as Métis (i.e., proof that an individual self-identifies as Métis by way of signing the MNO Oath of Allegiance);
- ii. Proof of Historic Métis Nation Ancestry (i.e., establishing an ancestral connection to a “Métis Ancestor” as described in the Registry Policy);
- iii. Distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples (i.e., not registered with another Aboriginal nation or on another Aboriginal list); and
- iv. Accepted by the Métis Nation (i.e., completion of the MNO citizenship registration process).

Overview of the RSRP Workflow

After a thorough review of each citizenship file was completed based on the Registry Policy, each file was designated as either: “Complete,” “Missing Documentation,” or “Incomplete” according to the following criteria:

- **Complete:** A citizenship file contains all documents needed to demonstrate a genealogical connection to a Métis Ancestor and a signed MNO Oath of Allegiance;
- **Missing Documentation:** A citizenship file includes documented proof of a Métis Ancestor, but lacks acceptable documents to support genealogical connection(s) to the ancestor and/or is missing a signed MNO Oath of Allegiance; and
- **Incomplete:** A citizenship file lacks a historic document or any records evidencing an ancestral connection to a Métis Ancestor as defined by the Registry Policy.

Following the review of their citizenship file, each MNO citizen was advised of the status of their file by letter.

Citizens with “complete” files were issued a new MNO citizenship card and were also provided with information about which of the seven identified Historic Métis Communities in Ontario they connect to,² or where their “Métis Ancestor” was documented in the Historic Métis Nation Homeland.

Citizens and applicants with “missing documentation” or “incomplete” files were provided with information about the missing documents and current Registry Policy requirements as well as solutions to help them resolve any file issues.

² Further information on the seven identified Historic Métis Communities in Ontario is available on the MNO’s website: <http://www.metisnation.org/registry/citizenship/historic-m%C3%A9tis-communities-in-ontario/>.

RSRP Supplemental Report Outcomes

As of September 23, 2021, the review of 26,710 MNO citizenship files reveal:

- **A total of 75% of all MNO citizenship files (19,896 MNO citizens) were confirmed as having “Complete” citizenship files and were issued new MNO citizenship card** (i.e., their file included all the necessary documentation required to meet the MNO’s current requirements for citizenship).
- Another 1% of MNO citizenship files (301 MNO citizens) could “Complete” their file if they signed the MNO’s required Oath of Allegiance, and another 4% (1025 MNO citizens) could “complete” their file simply by providing missing genealogical documents. **If these outstanding requirements were met, a total of 80% of MNO citizenship files (21,222 MNO citizens) would be confirmed as “Complete”.**
- **A total of 20% of current citizenship files (5,390 MNO citizens) were determined to have “Incomplete” files, lacking a historic document or any records evidencing an ancestral connection to a “Métis Ancestor” as defined by the Registry Policy. Of these 5390 citizenship files that are “Incomplete”:**
 - A total of 43% (2324 MNO Citizens) trace to ancestors outside the Métis Nation Homeland as defined by the Registry Policy with the majority of these (1787 MNO Citizens) tracing to ancestors in Quebec.
 - A total of 13% (709 MNO Citizens) are missing a completed genealogical chart.
 - A total of 7% (389 MNO citizens) trace to two lineages, which despite extensive kinship with Verified Métis Metis Family Lines and presence in the Historic Métis Nation Homeland as defined by the Registry Policy, are missing a document that identifies any of the ancestors in these lines as “Métis” in the historic record and therefore do not meet the requirements of the Registry Policy.
 - A total of 6% (349 MNO citizens) were found to have a genealogical error in their file, and do not trace to the “Métis Ancestor” identified in their file.
 - 50 MNO citizens (less than 1%) have an adoption issue as the reason why a genealogical link to a “Métis Ancestor” cannot be validated.³
 - A total of 28% (1524 MNO citizens) have no valid contact information on file.
- As a part of the RSRP, 1,154 MNO citizens files were determined to be inactive because of death, suspension, or withdrawal and were removed from the MNO Registry for one of these reasons.

³ The MNO Bylaws and Registry Policy does not address or provide direction to the MNO Registrar as to how to deal with adoption of children by MNO citizen or by documented Métis Ancestors so these files are not able to be deemed “complete” because they lack a unbroken lineal link to a “Métis Ancestor”.