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

Submitted to:  
Métis Nation of Ontario

**Know History**  
Historical Services

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# 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 the 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**”).

This Supplemental Report provides an updated report on outcomes, as of July 1, 2022. As well, it provides additional details and information on why files were deemed “Incomplete.”

## 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.<sup>1</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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: <https://www.metisnation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/2019-august-24-mno-registry-policy.pdf>

- 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:** Citizenship file contains all documents needed to demonstrate a genealogical connection to a Métis Ancestor and a signed MNO Oath of Allegiance;
- **Missing Documentation:** 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:** 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,<sup>2</sup> 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.

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<sup>2</sup> 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 July 1, 2022, the review of 29,528 MNO citizenship files revealed:

- **A total of 78% of all MNO citizenship files (23,011 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 (179 MNO citizens) could “Complete” their file if they signed the MNO’s required Oath of Allegiance, and another 3% (961 MNO citizens) could “complete” their file simply by providing missing genealogical documents. **If these outstanding requirements were met, a total of 82% of MNO citizenship files (24,151 MNO citizens) would be confirmed as “Complete”.**
- **A total of 18% of current citizenship files (5,321 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 5,321 citizenship files that are “Incomplete”:**
  - A total of 43% (2,295 MNO Citizens) trace to ancestors outside the Métis Nation Homeland as defined by the Registry Policy with the majority of these (1,887 MNO Citizens) tracing to ancestors in Quebec.
  - A total of 13% (708 MNO Citizens) are missing a completed genealogical chart.
  - A total of 7% (374 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% (391 MNO citizens) were found to have a genealogical error in their file, and do not trace to the “Métis Ancestor” identified in their file.
  - Fewer than 50 MNO citizens (less than 1%) have an adoption issue as the reason why a genealogical link to a “Métis Ancestor” cannot be validated.<sup>3</sup>
  - A total of 28% (1174 MNO citizens) have no valid contact information on file.
- As a part of the RSRP, 1,250 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.

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<sup>3</sup> 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 an unbroken lineal link to a “Métis Ancestor”.

	MNO Citizens – Geography of Métis Ancestor(s)	Percentage of MNO Citizens with Complete & Incomplete Files (Total: 29,528)	Percentage of MNO Citizens with Complete Files (Total: 23,011)
<b>Ancestral Connections to Western Canada</b>	<b>5183</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>23%</b>
Ancestral Connection to Métis Scrip	3296		
Ancestral Connection to Manitoba Act Land Grants	1034		
Ancestral Connection to Métis in Western Canada Pre-1901	853		
<b>Ancestral Connections to Northwestern Ontario</b>	<b>1872</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>8%</b>
Descendants of Treaty 3 Halfbreed Adhesion	1075		
Other Northwestern Ontario Métis	797		
<b>Ancestral Connections to Great Lakes Métis</b>	<b>11493</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>50%</b>
Lake Superior	270		
Sault Ste Marie	1988		
Killarney	432		
Georgian Bay	8803		
<b>Ancestral Connections to Northeastern Ontario</b>	<b>4463</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>19%</b>
Abitibi Temiscamingue	1380		
Mattawa	3083		
Incomplete Files - Missing Documents (Signed Oath)	179		
Incomplete Files - Missing Documents (Other)	961		
Incomplete Files - No Métis Ancestor Identified	5321		
<b>Total Complete Files</b>	<b>23,011</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>100%</b>
Files In Progress (under review, reconsideration)	56		
<b>Total Citizens</b>	<b>29,528</b>		

Figure 1. MNO Citizens' ancestral connections