

Interim Registry Guidelines

General

1. The MNO Registry shall be in two separate parts – a Citizenship Registry and a Harvesters Registry.
2. The Registrar shall be solely responsible to register applicants for MNO citizenship.
3. All personal information in the Registry shall be kept strictly confidential and no personal information from a file may be disclosed to anyone, including members of the PCMNO, without the consent of the applicant or citizen. Aggregate data from the Registry may be collected and used for research or other purposes provided it does not disclose personal information without the consent of the applicant or citizen.
4. The Registrar shall only register applicants who are citizens of the Métis Nation within the meaning of the Métis Nation Citizenship Definition in the *MNO Interim Registry Backgrounder*.
5. No registered MNO citizens will be removed from the MNO Registry in the absence of written consent from that registered citizen. Registered MNO citizens may request, in writing, to have their names removed from the MNO Registry.
6. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide all of the required documents to support an application.
7. Applications that are incomplete will not be accepted for registration.
8. Many historic documents identify mixed-race aboriginal individuals using terms other than “Métis”. Such terms may include but are not limited to: chicot, bois-brule, half-breed, French breed, other breed, etc. There is no requirement that an applicant must provide a document that specifically uses the term “Métis”. Documents using these other descriptive terms may, taken together with other evidence, be acceptable as proof of Métis ancestry.
9. Evidence provided in support of an application may include but is not limited to scrip applications, photographs, census records, church records, diaries, journals, secondary sources, government documentation, etc.

Applications

10. Each applicant must provide proof that he or she is ordinarily resident in Ontario.
11. Each applicant must provide proof of Canadian citizenship.
12. Each applicant must provide a head and shoulders photograph of the applicant.
13. Each applicant must sign a waiver permitting access to his or her file for aggregate data. This waiver will not permit access to personal information without the prior consent of

- the applicant.
14. Each applicant must pay any required application fee.
 15. A completed MNO citizenship application form shall include the following information:
 - a. Full name of applicant;
 - b. Address or place(s) of residence;
 - c. Date of birth;
 - d. Marital status (optional);
 - e. The name of any spouse of the applicant (optional);
 - f. The dates of any marriages of the applicant (optional);
 - g. The names and dates of birth of any children of the citizen; and
 - h. The full name and date of birth of that citizen's mother and father

Self Identification as Métis

16. Each applicant must sign a declaration that they self-identify as Métis.
17. Each applicant must sign a declaration that they are not registered on another aboriginal registry and are not registered as an Indian under the *Indian Act*. For greater certainty, Métis National Council membership lists or registries are not considered “another aboriginal registry” and applicants may be concurrently registered or have membership in the Manitoba Métis Federation, Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, Métis Nation of Alberta or the Métis Nation of British Columbia.

Proof of Historic Métis Nation Ancestry

18. The applicant must prove Historic Métis Nation ancestry by providing evidence of a genealogical connection to a Métis ancestor who lived in the Historic Métis Nation Homeland after 1750.
19. There is some flexibility with respect to the exact boundaries of the Métis Nation Homeland. For example, proof that an applicant's ancestor lived just over the Ontario border in the United States or in Quebec may meet the requirement for demonstrating a Métis ancestor.
20. An applicant must provide documentary proof that links the applicant through each generation to a Métis ancestor.
21. Without more, genealogical proof that the applicant had an Indian ancestor is not sufficient to prove Métis ancestry.
22. Without more, genealogical proof that the applicant had a mixed-race ancestor who lived outside the Historic Métis Nation Homeland is not a sufficient to prove Métis ancestry.
23. Without more, genealogical proof that an applicant had a mixed-race ancestor who lived prior to 1750 is not sufficient to prove Métis ancestry.

Community Acceptance

24. The MNO, as the representative government of the Métis Nation in Ontario, accepts all applicants who meet its registration requirements by registering them with the MNO.
25. Registration as a citizen of MNO constitutes acceptance by the rights-bearing Métis community – the Métis Nation.

Harvesters Registry

26. An MNO citizen may apply for a Harvesters Card and shall provide a Captain of the Hunt with proof of the following:
 - a. that he or she is ordinarily resident in and intends to participate in the Métis harvest in his or her traditional territory; and
 - b. if the applicant intends to use firearms or a bow in the Métis harvest, he or she must demonstrate sufficient knowledge of firearms or bow hunting safety or completion of a firearms safety course.
27. Captains of the Hunt shall forward completed applications for Harvesters Cards to the MNO Registry.
28. Harvesters Cards shall have a term of validity of 3 years, which term shall begin from the date of issue.
29. The fee for a Harvesters Card shall be as set by the PCMNO from time to time.
30. An application for renewal of a Harvesters Certificate shall be sent to the applicant's Captain of the Hunt, who shall sign the renewal application form and forward it to MNO for processing.

Appeals

31. Within 6 months of submitting an application to the MNO Registry, an applicant whose application is not complete or has not been approved by the MNO Registrar shall be notified in writing. Such notice shall contain the reason(s) the application is not approved (i.e. more information needed, failure to establish that a Métis ancestor, etc.).
32. If the application is incomplete, the onus is on the applicant to provide the needed information to the MNO Registry.
33. There is no appeal or reconsideration for applications that are determined by the MNO Registry to be incomplete.
34. If the application has not been approved for reasons other than being incomplete, an applicant may ask, in writing, to have the decision of the MNO Registrar reconsidered by the MNO Registrar.
35. Written requests for reconsideration must include the grounds for the challenge and may include additional documentation in support of the challenge.
36. Upon receipt of the written request for reconsideration, the MNO Registrar shall consider all the materials in the applicant's file and may consider any additional information during the reconsideration process.

37. The MNO Registrar shall provide a written response to the reconsideration request within 90 days of receiving such request.
38. Reconsideration is a necessary prerequisite to filing an appeal.
39. An applicant may appeal the MNO Registrar's reconsideration decision by:
 - a. completing a MNO Citizenship Final Appeal Request Form. A copy of this Form is attached as Appendix B; and
 - b. including a payment of \$250.00 to the MNO for the administrative costs associated with the appeal.
40. Upon receipt of the required materials in support of the appeal, the MNO Registrar shall forward the contents of the applicant's file to an independent, qualified genealogist with experience in Métis genealogy for review and consideration of the applicant's appeal.
41. This genealogist will review the documents in the applicant's file based on the MNO Registry Policy, Guidelines and Backgrounder. Upon completion of the genealogist's review, he or she may either uphold or overturn the Registrar's determination. A letter from the genealogist setting out his or her decision, with reasons, will be provided to the MNO Registrar and the applicant. A copy of the decision shall be placed in the applicant's file. The decision of the independent genealogist will be final and binding on the parties to the appeal.
42. An applicant must exhaust the MNO reconsideration and appeal process prior to filing any claim or action in a court.