

## DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

# MNC DEFINITION OF “MÉTIS”

### 1. Definitions

1.1. **“Métis”** means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is of Historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation through the Acceptance Process.

1.2. **“Acceptance Process”** means the process to accept applications for registration on the Métis Nation Register, as established herein, and administered by the respective MNC provincial governing member jointly with the MNC, all as amended from time to time.

1.3. **“Historic Métis Nation”** means the Aboriginal people then known as Métis or Half-breeds who resided in the Historic Métis Nation Homeland.

1.4. **“Historic Métis Nation Homeland”** means the area of land in west central North America used and occupied as the traditional territory of the Métis, or Half-breeds as they were then known.

1.5. **“MNC” or “Métis National Council”** means the governing body that represents the Métis Nation.

1.6. **“MNC provincial governing member”** means the provincial or territorial entities who jointly form the MNC.

1.7. **“Métis Nation”** means the Aboriginal people descended from the Historic Métis Nation which is now comprised of all Métis Nation Citizens and is one of the “aboriginal peoples of Canada” within the meaning of s.35 of the *Constitution Act 1982*.

1.8. **“Métis Nation Citizen”** means a person whose name is on the Métis Nation Register.

1.9. **“Métis Nation Register”** means the national list of Métis Nation Citizens and includes the lists maintained by the MNC governing members, all as amended from time to time.

- 1.10. **“Registrar”** means a person appointed by an MNC provincial governing member who is responsible for maintaining the Métis Nation Register within its respective jurisdiction and includes any person appointed by the MNC as national Registrar.

## **2. Métis Nation Registry – Enrolment Criteria**

- 2.1. A person is eligible to be enrolled as a Métis Nation Citizen on the Métis Nation Register if that person:

- (a) is Métis within the meaning of 1.1; or
- (b) was adopted as a child, under the laws of any jurisdiction or under any Métis custom, by a Métis within the meaning 1.1.

- 2.2. An application for enrolment on the Métis Nation Register must include the following:

- (a) a signed and witnessed written declaration that he or she self-identifies as Métis and is not registered on another Aboriginal register; and
- (b) evidence that he or she is Métis; or
- (c) evidence that he or she was adopted by a Métis within the meaning 1.1.

- 2.3. A parent, guardian or legal representative who provides proof of his or her lawful authority to represent a minor or a person who is legally incompetent, may submit an application for that minor or legally incompetent person.

- 2.4. A person is not eligible to be enrolled as a Métis Nation Citizen while that person is enrolled under another Aboriginal registry.

## **3. Acceptance Process**

- 3.1. Each MNC provincial governing member shall establish an Acceptance Process which shall operate according to the principles and rules set out herein and any procedural rules including the appeal process shall be in accordance with the principles of natural justice.

- 3.2. Notwithstanding 3.1, efforts should be made to have the Acceptance Process as uniform as possible by all provincial governing members.

- 3.3. A copy of each application and declaration shall be provided to the MNC Registrar, along with that person's name for the national register.
- 3.4. Registration on the Métis Nation Register constitutes acceptance by the Métis Nation that the person is a Métis Nation Citizen and shall be accepted by all MNC provincial governing members.
- 3.5. Evidence for the purposes of 2.2(b) and (c) may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:
- (a) vital statistics records issued by governments such as birth certificates, marriage, divorce and death certificates, adoption records or census rolls;
  - (b) scrip or land grants issued to an ancestor pursuant to the *Manitoba Act, 1870* or the *Dominion Lands Acts* or entitlement to such scrip or land grants;
  - (c) memorials, addenda or other such documents associated with the scrip or treaty process which identified Métis communities in the Historic Métis Nation Homeland and the Métis members of those communities;
  - (d) proof in the form of diaries, notes or other documents that a Métis ancestor participated in activities of the Historic Métis Nation;
  - (e) church records in the form of baptism, confirmation, marriage, annulment or death records;
  - (f) a written or oral statement by an Elder who is a Métis Nation Citizen; and
  - (g) any other proof which the Registrar may consider valuable in assisting an applicant to prove his or her Métis ancestry or adoption by a Métis within the meaning of 1.1.
- 3.6. The Registrar shall give notice in writing of the reasons for any decision to refuse enrolment or to remove a name from the Register and of the right to appeal, including the period for making an appeal. Any person whose application for enrolment on the Métis Nation Register is refused or whose name is removed may, within 60 days of notice of such decision, appeal in writing to the Registrar.
- 3.7. Each Métis Nation Citizen shall be provided proof of enrolment on the Métis Nation Register.

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