



UNFINISHED BUSINESS 1
APPROVED AT THE JUNE 2024
MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

Subject: Clarifying Citizenship Eligibility/Acceptance

Legislation Affected: *Citizenship Act*

Submitted by: Métis Nation Columbia River Society

Submitted to: MNGA Clerk

Date Submitted: January 25, 2024 (Original)
April 8, 2024 (Revised)

Vote Required for Approval: 75%

WHEREAS:

1. The Métis National Council General Assembly adopted the following “National Definition” in 2002: “Métis means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry and who is accepted by the Métis Nation.”
2. In its judgement in *R. v. Powley* 2003, the Supreme Court of Canada confirmed that Métis are a rights-bearing Aboriginal people and set out the components of a Métis definition for the purpose of claiming Aboriginal rights under Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 based on ancestral connection to and acceptance by historic Métis communities.
3. Pursuant to the *Powley* decision, Canada has supported the Métis National Council (MNC) Governing Members in establishing and maintaining citizenship registries. To become a Registered Métis Nation Citizen, a person must apply to the Métis Registry operated by the MNC Governing Member in the province in which they reside. MNBC is the MNC Governing member in the province of British Columbia.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The *Citizenship Act* be amended as follows:

- A. Insert the following as Articles 3.1.3, 3.1.4, and 3.1.5
 - 3.1.3 The Applicant recognizes they may not be enrolled on any other Aboriginal registry. This includes being registered as a member, citizen, or beneficiary under the Indian Act or with any other organization or group that claims to represent Métis or other Aboriginal peoples for the purposes of rights, interests, and self government.

- 3.1.4 The Applicant understands Métis Nation British Columbia is the representative body for Métis Citizens in BC provincially, nationally, and internationally.
 - 3.1.5 The Applicant agrees that by signing the Oath of Citizenship on the MNBC Citizenship Application and/or the MNBC Citizenship Renewal or Replacement Application, they recognize MNBC as their sole governmental representative for their Indigenous rights under Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution, independent of any other declaration or statement the Applicant may have made previously.
- B. Subject to approval of A above, in Article 3.2 insert “, 3.1.4 and 3.1.5” after 3.1.2 so that the article will read:
- 3.2 Once the Citizenship Authority is satisfied that the Applicant has met the conditions in Articles 3.1, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.4, and 3.1.5, the Citizenship Authority shall issue the Applicant notification of community acceptance not exceeding 90 days, and then issue a Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Card.
- C. In Article 6.1, strike the word “or” and in its place and insert “, renewal or replacement” immediately following so that the article will read:
- 6.1 If, due to information found during an audit, review, renewal, or replacement a person on the Central Registry is found to be ineligible for Métis citizenship: