

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1
SUBMITTED TO THE 2019 MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY
FOR FIRST READING
March 22-24, 2019

Date submitted: February 5, 2019

Motion Subject: MNBC Citizenship Act

Primary Offices Affected: MNBC Citizenship Registry and Ministry of Children and Families

Submitted by: MNBC Board of Directors – Regional Director (Minister of Children and Families)

Submitted to: The Office of the MNGA Clerk

WHEREAS:

- A. Métis Nation British Columbia has entered into an agreement with the Provincial Ministry of Children and Family Development to begin the process of transferring jurisdiction for Métis Children in the care of government to the Métis Nation;
- B. There may be some children in the care of government who have been identified as Métis but who may not have the required documentation to prove Métis genealogy and gain Métis Citizenship;
- C. The lack of documentation proving Métis genealogy for children is not uncommon and is beyond their control, and MNBC does not want to leave any children behind when jurisdiction is transferred;
- D. It is appropriate to amend the MNBC Citizenship Act to provide for the possibility of children coming into the care of MNBC who do not have the documentation to prove Métis genealogy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The MNBC Citizenship Act be amended as follows:

1. Definitions section be expanded to include:

“Adjudication Committee” means a Committee comprised of the MNBC Chief Executive Officer, MNBC Director of Children and Families, and the MNBC Citizenship Registrar, having the responsibility of determining who is a Child of the Métis Nation

“Child in Care” means a child who is in the custody, care or guardianship of a director or a director of adoption of the Provincial Government or of MNBC.

“Child of the Métis Nation” means a Child in Care who is believed to be Métis but is unable to provide objectively verifiable proof of Métis genealogy and is customarily adopted by the Métis Nation until they reach the age of 19.

“Benefits and Services” mean those benefits and services that a Child in Care has been receiving prior to coming into the care of the Métis Nation, and which may be provided in whole or in part as a Child of the Métis Nation

2. Amend the Act by adding a new Article 13 as follows:

ARTICLE THIRTEEN – CHILDREN IN CARE

- 13.0 *The MNBC shall accept an application for citizenship as a Métis Citizen upon an applicant providing to the Registrar objectively verifiable proof of a child in the care of government or of the Métis Nation is Métis and is eligible for citizenship as per the MNBC Citizenship Act.*
- 13.1 *The MNBC Director of Children and Families or such other person with the same responsibilities within MNBC or within an MNBC agency may make the application on behalf of the Child in Care.*
- 13.2 *If a Child in Care is believed to be Métis but the applicant is unable to provide objectively verifiable proof of Métis genealogy, the child may be considered for benefits and services provided to a Métis Citizen until they reach the age of 19. Such child shall be classified by an Adjudication Committee as a Child of the Métis Nation until the age of 19. A Child of the Métis Nation will be issued a certificate declaring them as such. The Child in Care will not be eligible to be issued a Métis Citizenship card unless they are able to provide objectively verifiable proof of Métis genealogy.*