MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA

MÉTIS NATION CITIZENSHIP ACT

AS RATIFIED SEPTEMBER 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ARTICLE ONE - TITLE

1.0 This Act may be cited as "The Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Act"

ARTICLE TWO - INTERPRETATION

2.1 In this Act:

2.2 **"Act"** means the *Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Act*.

2.3 **"Adoption"** means the Act of transferring parental rights and duties to someone other than the adopted person's biological parents by means of a statutory adoption or a customary Métis adoption.

2.4 **"Adopted Métis Citizen"** A Métis Citizen that has acquired their Métis Citizenship as per Article 12 of the MNBC *Citizenship* Act.

2.5 **"Appeal"** or "**Appeals"** means a written document submitted by: an Applicant who has been rejected entry in the Métis Nation British Columbia Citizen Registry, or a person whose Citizenship has been revoked under Article Six of this Act;

2.6 **"Applicant"** means an individual who applies for a MNBC Citizenship Card by filing the necessary documentation with the Ministry of Citizenship.

2.7 **"Application"** means the MNBC Citizenship Standardized Application Form, provided by MNBC through the Ministry of Citizenship or on the MNBC Website.

2.8 "**Application Process"** means the process to receive Applications and determine Métis Citizenship, outlined in Article 4 of this *Act,* and that is operationalized, maintained, and updated from time to time by the Ministry of Citizenship.

2.9 A **"Chartered Community"** is a Métis Community that has entered into a Community Governance Charter agreement with the MNBC.

2.10 **"Child"** means a child of a Métis citizen.

2.11 **"Citizen"** means a Métis Citizen as defined by the *Constitution*.

2.12 **"Citizen Registry"** means the data and systems used by the Ministry of Citizenship to gather and store information about Métis Citizens.

2.13 **"Citizenship Appeal Committee"** means the Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Appeal Committee as established and maintained by the Senate.

2.14 **"Citizenship Authority"** (the "*Authority*") means the office in the Ministry of Citizenship which processes, assesses, and ensures Chartered Community acceptance is approved within the required timeframe, and issues Citizenship cards. The Authority consists of:

- The Executive Director of Citizenship
- The Director of Citizenship
- The Indigenous Research Manager

2.15 **"Community Governance Charter"** means the written document that shall set out the terms of the relationship between a Chartered Community and the MNBC.

2.16 **"Constitution"** means the *Constitution* of the *Métis* Nation British Columbia as amended from time to time.

2.17 **"Customary Adoption"** An adoption that is consistent with the historical and customary practices of the Métis Nation which has occurred at an early age by an immediate or extended family member.

2.18 **"Extended Family Member"** is a grandparent, uncle, aunt, cousin, nephew and/or niece that is a Métis Citizen or is eligible for Métis Citizenship as per the *MNBC Citizenship Act*.

2.19 **"Genealogical Evidence"** means evidence which indicates proof that an Applicant's parent is, or parents are, of Métis Ancestry and that the Applicant is Métis and which can be verified by an objective and valid process.

2.20 **"Historical and Customary Practices"** The traditional undertaking of privately arranged adoption between a Métis Citizen's family and another aboriginal family.

2.21 **"Immediate Family Member"** Is a parent (mother/father), child (son/daughter) or sibling (sister/brother) that is a Métis Citizen or is eligible for Métis Citizenship as per the *MNBC Citizenship Act*.

2.22 **"Legislation"** means legislative documents or acts pursuant to which the administrative affairs and constitutional requirements of the MNBC shall be carried out.

2.23 **"Métis Nation Governing Assembly"** (MNGA) means the legislative authority of the Métis Nation British Columbia as set out in the Constitution.

2.24 **"Métis Nation British Columbia"** (MNBC) means the organization previously known as the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia which represents and is comprised of the Métis Citizens of British Columbia and which is governed by the provisions of the Constitution which is also the Constitution of the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia.

2.25 **"Métis Nation British Columbia"** (MNBC) means the governing body with the secretariat known as the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia, which represents and is comprised of the Métis citizens of British Columbia and which is governed by the provision of the *Constitution*.

2.26 **"Ministry of Citizenship"** means the Ministry at MNBC that promotes Métis Citizenship in British Columbia and supports people who self-identify as Métis through the Citizenship application process, while ensuring the integrity of the Citizen Registry.

2.27 **"MNBC Citizenship Card"** means the identification card that shall be issued by the Citizenship Authority to all Métis Citizens who have had their Genealogy and supporting documentation validated and verified by the Office of the Citizenship Authority.

2.28 **"Statutory Adoption"** An adoption that is granted under the authority of provincial and/or territorial government legislation.

2.29 **"Supporting Documentation"** is defined as records used to support an application for Citizenship, including vital events records, historical records, church records, archival records, and census records.

2.30 **"Under Review**" means a previously registered Citizen whose Citizenship is currently being reviewed by the Citizenship Authority following an audit of the Citizen Registry.

ARTICLE THREE – MÉTIS NATION ACCEPTANCE

3.1 The MNBC shall accept an application for Citizenship upon the Applicant providing to the Ministry of Citizenship a written Application together with sufficient Genealogical Evidence which, if accepted by the Citizenship Authority, is proof that the Applicant is of Métis ancestry, and that the Applicant complies with the following conditions:

3.1.1 The Applicant normally resides within the Chartered Community area and the jurisdiction of the MNBC; and

3.1.2 The Applicant expressly holds themselves out to be Métis in the Chartered Community and/or within the jurisdiction of the MNBC;

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.

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, 3.1.3, 3.1.4, and 3.1.5, the Citizenship Authority may issue the Applicant notification of Chartered Community acceptance not exceeding 90 days, and then issue a Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Card.

3.3 The Citizenship Authority shall provide a list of new Citizens to their respective Communities on a monthly basis, unless operational circumstances prevent that from happening, and in such a case the list of new Citizens must be provided by the end of the following month

ARTICLE FOUR - APPLICATION PROCESS

4.1 An individual is entitled to apply for Métis Citizenship by submitting an Application directly to the Ministry of Citizenship or through a Métis Chartered Community;

4.2 Upon approval, the Citizenship Authority shall issue an MNBC Citizenship Card recognizing the Applicant as a Métis Citizen.

4.3 The parent or guardian of a child under nineteen (19) years of age may apply on behalf of the child;

4.4 The guardian of an individual who is under a mental or legal disability may apply on behalf of that individual;

4.5 No individual is obliged to apply for Citizenship;

4.6 The Applicant must provide the Ministry of Citizenship with the necessary supporting documentation, as described in the Application Process for the Applicant to be considered for Métis Citizenship.

4.7 The Citizenship Authority shall provide final review of complete Applications for Métis Citizenship, and approve the application only if the Applicant is eligible to be a Métis Citizen pursuant to the provisions of this *Act.*

4.8 The Citizenship Authority shall establish and implement a process to seek out and encourage the application for registration of all qualified individuals who are entitled to be registered as Métis Citizens.

ARTICLE FIVE - VOLUNTARY REMOVAL FROM CITIZEN REGISTRY

5.1 A Métis Citizen may, at any time, voluntarily remove themself from the Citizen Registry;

5.2 The Citizenship Authority shall remove a Métis Citizen who, by written request, declares that they no longer wish to be an MNBC Citizen;

5.3 A Métis Citizen who has removed themself from the Citizen Registry may re-apply upon following the application procedure for becoming an MNBC Citizen, as set out in this Act.

ARTICLE SIX – REMOVAL FROM CITIZEN REGISTRY DUE TO INELIGIBILITY

6.1 If, due to information found during an audit, review, renewal, or replacement, a person on the Citizen Registry is found to be ineligible for Métis Citizenship:

a) The Citizenship Authority will notify the person, in writing, that their Métis Citizenship is under review, and provide the reason(s) for ineligibility, and, if relevant, the Supporting Documentation required to restore Citizenship status.

b) Supporting Documentation requested to restore Citizenship status must be provided within sixty (60) days of the review notice being sent by the Citizenship Authority. This time frame can be extended, by request of the Citizen, by a further ninety (90) days.

(i) Extension requests are granted solely at the discretion of the Citizenship Authority.

6.2 If the Citizenship Authority has received Supporting Documentation to their satisfaction that the person is eligible for Métis Citizenship, the review status of their Citizenship will be immediately removed.

6.3 If the Citizenship Authority has not received any further Supporting Documentation, or, the Supporting Documentation is insufficient to objectively verify and meet the criteria for Métis Citizenship, the Citizenship of the person will be revoked, and the person will be notified of this revocation in writing.

6.4 A person whose Citizenship has been revoked under Article Six may appeal the Citizenship Authority's decision to the Senate, within sixty (60) days of the date removal notice is sent by the Citizenship Authority. The Senate's decision on this Appeal will be final and binding.

6.5 A person whose Citizenship has been revoked under Article Six may re-apply for MNBC Citizenship by completing the Application Process.

6.6 A person who is placed under review by the Citizenship Authority is not eligible to apply for any further supports, programs, or funding through MNBC until their Citizenship has been reaffirmed. A person currently receiving supports will continue to receive them for at least sixty (60) days following the notice sent by the Citizenship Authority. This time frame can be extended, by request of the person under review, by a further sixty (60) days.

ARTICLE SEVEN – CITIZEN REGISTRY

7.1 The Ministry of Citizenship shall maintain an objectively verifiable system for processing of Métis Citizenship Applications;

7.2 The Ministry of Citizenship shall collect and maintain the information necessary to determine Citizenship eligibility; the information to be collected is listed on the MNBC Citizenship Application Package and updated from time to time.

7.3 The Ministry of Citizenship may collect and maintain additional demographic information about Métis Citizens as, in the Ministry of Citizenship's sole discretion, is deemed necessary and/or expedient;

7.4 All information concerning Applicants or Métis Citizens located at the Citizen Registry is confidential and the Ministry of Citizenship shall adhere to or cause to be adhered to, all federal and provincial Privacy Laws;

7.5 The Ministry of Citizenship shall cause the Citizen Registry to be kept safely by administrative, physical, and technological safeguards that are reasonable and consistent with this Act;

7.6 The Ministry of Citizenship will, with the consent of the MNBC Board of Directors obtain permission from Citizens to release certain personal information of Citizens to the Provincial or Federal Governments for health and social determinants of health research purposes only, provided that each Citizen affected by that permission has been provided with an information document fully describing the information proposed by the Ministry of Citizenship to be released, including a release statement that provides that Citizen with an opportunity to decline or refuse to permit the release of the personal information proposed to be released.

i) In the event a Citizen, having been provided with a reasonable opportunity to respond to the Ministry of Citizenship at the address provided, declines to give their consent for the information to be released, then that information will not be released.

7.7 Applicants may apply for Citizenship by written Application through a Chartered Community, or directly to the Ministry of Citizenship;

7.8 Application maybe submitted by a Chartered Community to the Ministry of Citizenship on behalf of the applicant for consideration and entry into the Citizen Registry;

7.9 An Applicant whose application is not approved by the Ministry of Citizenship shall be notified, in writing of the decision;

7.10 An Applicant, whose Application the Citizenship Authority approves, shall be issued a MNBC Citizenship Card by the Ministry of Citizenship;

7.11 Each MNBC Citizenship Card shall bear a personal and individual registration number and clearly identify which MNBC Region the Citizens resides;

7.12 MNBC Citizenship Cards issued pursuant this Act shall constitute the only legitimate and valid proof of Métis Citizenship to the exclusion of all other cards and/or documents of any nature;

7.13 Except as may be otherwise provided by this Act, the MNBC shall be solely responsible for the development and distribution of the Provincial Citizenship Application Forms and the MNBC Citizenship Card.

7.14 The MNBC shall establish a Citizenship Authority which shall maintain and provide Provincial Citizenship Application Forms and MNBC Citizenship Cards to Applicants or Chartered Communities when consent to Release of Personal information forms have been signed and submitted by the Applicant.

ARTICLE EIGHT - THE MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP

8.1 The Ministry of Citizenship shall be required to follow all policies and procedures developed by the MNBC and shall:

8.2 Receive and review applications for Citizenship submitted by an Applicant on the MNBC Citizenship Application Forms and shall render a decision whether a person is entitled to be a Métis Citizen;

8.3 Be and is authorized to request and obtain Genealogical evidence and/or any other documentation and information which may be relevant to an application and the proper discharge of the Ministry of Citizenship's duties;

8.4 Provide a report in writing to MNGA and the MNBC upon their reasonable request;

8.5 Maintain the Citizen Registry in a suitable and proper manner;

8.6 Provide a written decision to the Applicant, as may be appropriate under the circumstances

concerning an application;

8.7 Include with any written decision, written instruction on the procedure for commencing an appeal from a decision of the Ministry of Citizenship;

8.8 Applicants whose applications are not approved for Citizenship may appeal such decision to the Senate;

8.9 Ensure that all documentation and information in the possession of the Ministry of Citizenship with respect to the application under appeal is provided, together with the Ministry of Citizenship's report, to the Senate prior to the date upon which the appeal is to be heard;

8.10 Comply with any reasonable request of the Senate or of the Citizens' Appeal Committee or other appropriate Senate Tribunal for information or material concerning the Application or an appeal;

8.11 Respond to any reasonable request for information from an Applicant, the appropriate Chartered Community or the MNBC concerning an application.

ARTICLE NINE - CITIZENSHIP APPEAL

9.0 An Applicant, Chartered Community or the MNBC may appeal a decision of the Citizenship Authority concerning the application of an Applicant for Citizenship to the Senate pursuant to the provisions of this Act or the Senate Act.

ARTICLE TEN - FINANCES

10.0 The expenses and costs associated with the maintenance of the Ministry of Citizenship including the remuneration for the office of the Citizenship Authority and the Citizen Registry office staff shall be established by the MNBC based on the availability of fiscal resources.

ARTICLE ELEVEN - ADOPTION

11.1 The MNBC shall accept an application for Citizenship as a Métis Citizen upon applicant providing to the Citizenship Authority objectively verifiable proof of an adoption which, if accepted by the Citizenship Authority, proves that the Applicant has been adopted by a Métis Citizen or is eligible for Citizenship as per the *MNBC Citizenship Act*.

11.2 The adopted Métis Citizen's Citizenship is limited by a life estate termination, unless;

11.3 The adopted Métis Citizen marries a Métis Citizen, thereby which the offspring can attain their Citizenship through the Métis genealogy of the other parent.

11.4 An adult adoption (18 years or older) is exempt from receiving Métis Citizenship as per *Article Eleven*.